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HISTORY OF WYOMING



CHARLES HERBERT HALL
Author



**HISTORY of
WYOMING
BOROUGH, Pa.**

1885-1935

1885



1935

By **CHARLES HERBERT HALL**

Written for the
Fiftieth Anniversary
of the Incorporation
of the Borough

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by Charles Herbert Hall

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DEDICATION

This history is respectfully dedicated to the memory of the hardy founders and builders of Wyoming whose heroic deeds and sacrifices exemplified their exalted ideals of patriotism and love of home. May this little book inspire their children and their children's children to even greater efforts in their struggle to upbuild this their home and preserve its sacred traditions.



FOREWORD

ON THIS FIFTIETH anniversary of the incorporation of the Borough of Wyoming, the General Committee thought it best to attempt a history of the borough from its earliest times so that, in future years, those who might be interested would find it convenient to trace its history without recourse to the many volumes now out of print and which, as years pass, are becoming more and more inaccessible.

In this story of Wyoming, the author has attempted to briefly record the important events which happened here and to trace through the last one hundred and fifty years the growth of the settlement to its present importance as a borough, visited annually by hundreds of persons interested in its historic past.

The author has not hesitated to draw upon every source available for material and he has endeavored to weave into one connected whole the story of Wyoming with the hope that the youth of today will find in it something that will inspire them with a loyalty to the ideals of their forefathers who worked, lived, fought and died here for their children and their children's children.

The events and locations mentioned have, so far as possible, been given correctly so that future generations may find each and every one authentic. How necessary it is to know these things has been borne, repeatedly, upon the author by his many arduous attempts, many times fruitlessly, to identify persons and places

which have played important parts in the development of Wyoming Borough.

Events, persons and places, known to us personally, in forty or fifty years become legends, and their authenticity difficult to establish unless the sources of information have been carefully and exactly kept by those living in the present. Too often secretaries of meetings record actions of the meetings so briefly that in later years it is impossible to determine just what the action was.

Just such lack of written information in numerous cases, has made the writing of this book very difficult and it is inevitable that errors will be found in this history because of such lack.

The author finds it impossible to mention individually the many persons who have helped him in the preparation of this little book. Descendents of early settlers have been most kind in giving him information and in loaning him valuable books; old residents of the borough have willingly drawn upon their recollections for important events and places; and borough officials, the members of council and of the school board have assisted in many ways to make this history as valuable as possible. To all these he wishes to express his sincere appreciation for their courtesy and kindness and he extends to them his grateful and heartfelt thanks for their assistance.

CHARLES HERBERT HALL.

May 6, 1935.



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EARLY
HISTORY
OF WYOMING



CHAPTER I



THE OLD PETTEBONE HOMESTEAD
Maintained at the present time by
Mr. and Mrs. Franck G. Darte.



THE OLD SWETLAND STOREHOUSE
Where the bones of the massacre remained until the
monument was erected.



EARLY HISTORY OF WYOMING

FOR MANY YEARS IT was believed that Count Zinzendorf, the Moravian missionary, was the first white man to visit Wyoming Valley. Zinzendorf came here in 1642. More recent researches, however, show that white men visited this valley seven years after the English made their first settlement at Jamestown, Virginia, and six years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

In 1841, Brodhead, the historian, discovered among the "Holland Documents" in the Hague, an account of three Dutchmen who had been taken captive by the Carantouans, or Andastes, and held prisoners at their village at Spanish Hills, at South Waverly, Pennsylvania, across the state line at Waverly, New York. A map, dated 1614, made by a Captain Hendrickson, and now in the Hague, shows the route of these men when they were taken by their captors to the Delaware River for ransoming. This route led down the Susquehanna River from Athens to Nescopeck, where they left the river and went overland to the Delaware River where Hendrickson gave "kettles, beads and merchandise" in exchange for them.

These Dutchmen were traders from Fort Orange, on the Hudson River which had been discovered only five years before by Henry Hudson.

A confirmation of this reported journey is to be found in the writings of Champlain in the latest edition published in 1870, by the Laval University, Quebec, Canada. Champlain tells the story in a little different way, but in principle the stories agree.

In 1615, one year later, Champlain sent his interpreter, Estienne Brusle, or as he is better known to us, Stephen Brule, on a mission to the Indians. Brule was gone three years, returning to report in 1618. While away Brule explored the Susquehanna River from its source to the Chesapeake Bay, and back again. His story of the richness of the country along the river agreed with that of the three Dutchmen mentioned. The Dutchmen told of a great valley of very rich soil, with great level lands on both sides of the river. There is no valley with level land of the size of the Wyoming Valley, along the river above this place, so undoubtedly their description was of this valley.

In their report the Dutchmen said they passed five great Indian villages. Two of these have been located by historians farther up the river. It is probable that some of the other three may have been located here. The Indians in this part of the United States were more or less agricultural in their habits, setting up villages and growing corn, beans, squash, etc. for food. When crops began to fail because of worn-out soils they moved their villages a mile, or more and set up new homes.

For more than a hundred years the farmers of the valley have been plowing up Indian relics indicating that in the long past Indian villages had stood in almost every place in the valley.

The first white settlers found Indian villages here in many parts of the valley. Abraham's Plains, stretching from Edwardsville to Forest Castle, derived its name from a Christianized Mohegan chief, who had moved his people here from Lehigh. Abraham was the first Indian to be baptised by the Moravians, hence his name. He and his tribe had lived in New York state, and after their conversion to Christianity were persecuted by their neighbors. The Moravians brought them to Lehigh, and from that place some came here. Abraham's main village was at Plymouth where he lived and where he died. Another village, probably a part of Abraham's people was located along the creek which bears his name in this town. This village was back

from the river and probably was in the vicinity of the airport.

On the opposite side of the river from Wyoming was Chief Jacob's village, and the plains on which it stood were known to the white settlers as Jacob's Plains. In later years the name has been shortened to Plains.

Space will not permit a detailed history of the various Indian tribes that inhabited the valley, suffice to say that the Delawares were the last and their names for streams, mountains and places survive to a considerable extent. The name Wyoming is one of these. Its English meaning is "Great plains" or "Broad level ground."

The original Indian village bearing the name Wyoming was at Plymouth. Later the white men built a fort at Wilkes-Barre and named it Fort Wyoming. From this fort the name was transferred to Wilkes-Barre, and later the entire section from Wyoming Valley to the New York State line was called Wyoming by the Connecticut people. In 1779, when Sullivan's army was here, Wilkes-Barre was called Wyoming by all but two or three of Sullivan's officers who kept diaries, although the name Wilkes-Barre had been given the town in 1771.

The name Wilkes-Barre came to be accepted by the settlers and the name Wyoming confined to the valley. As settlements grew in number a distinction between Wyoming Valley and Wyoming became known, the former applying to the valley and the latter to the place where the battle and massacre occurred.

Half a century before Wyoming borough was incorporated the town was known both as Wyoming and New Troy.

On July 14, 1807, the State of Pennsylvania granted a patent for 435 acres of land to Jacob Bedford, and named the location as New Troy. The name is supposed to have been given by a classically-minded clerk in the land office, as a consequence this place became known as New Troy and Troy Corners. Bedford was not the first landowner in Wyoming, but the first to apply for a Pennsylvania patent. Elsewhere in this history will be found a list of signs erected during the Sesqui-Cen-

tennial designating land taken up by the First Forty settlers who claimed land in Wyoming in 1769, under the Connecticut grant.

New Troy continued as the name for more than a quarter of a century. A post office was established here under that name in 1826 with William Swetland as postmaster. Thirteen years later the name was changed to Wyoming, probably because the town was rapidly adopting the name as its designation.

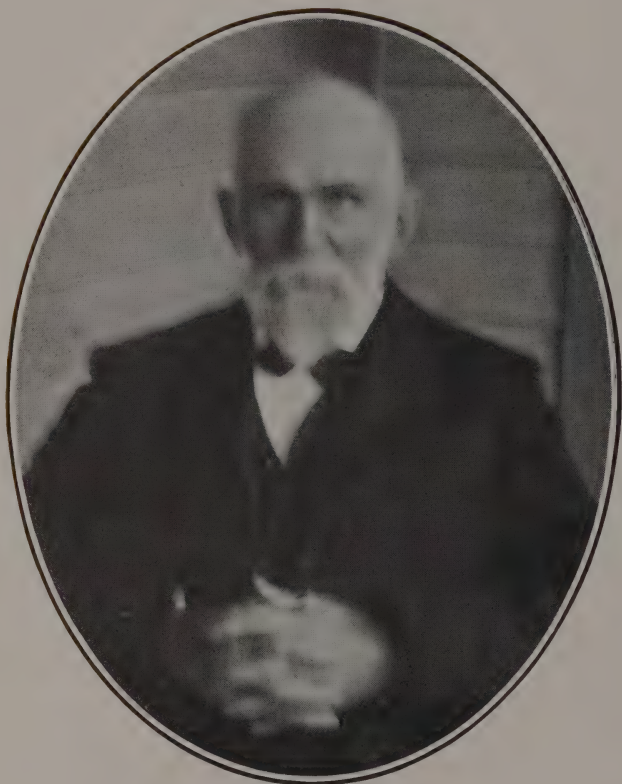
Mr. William Brewster, in his excellent History of "Certified Kingston Township" lists the following as postmasters here since April 27, 1826: William Swetland, Alpheus M. Jeffords, John Brees, John K. Jenkins, James Jenkins, James D. Green, Philip H. Dailey, Jesse B. Schooley, William H. Jenkins, Baltzar T. Laycock, Robert Hutchins, Sallie P. A. Hutchins, Charles Crouse, Margaret Reynolds, Eleanor L. C. Rouse. The post office, which still bears the name Wyoming, has been a branch office of the Pittston Post Office since 1913.



BOROUGH OF WYOMING



CHAPTER II



WILLIAM HANCOCK
First Burgess



JOHN MASEL
Present Burgess



THE BOROUGH OF WYOMING

EARLY IN THE SPRING of 1885, the idea of incorporating Wyoming was taken up by a number of progressive citizens, a petition prepared and a sufficient number of signers secured to present the matter to court. Wyoming then had a population of about 1000. After being favorably reported by the grand jury, the court, on June 5, 1885, handed down a decree incorporating the borough. The area of the new borough, as fixed by court, embraced approximately eight and two-tenths square miles. In 1898, by the division of the borough into Wyoming and West Wyoming this was reduced to two and eight-tenths square miles, the remainder, five and four-tenths square miles, being given to the new borough of West Wyoming.

Court appointed Samuel A. Lake to give notice of the first election; James B. Drake, judge of election; and Fisher Gay and John A. Hutchins, inspectors of elections. At the election held July 15 in the Butler Street school house, William Hancock was elected burgess, and John P. Smith, J. I. Shoemaker, John A. Hutchins, C. P. Knapp, John Sharpe and John Dougher, councilmen.

The first meeting of council was in the Butler Street school building, July 23, 1885, the oath of office being administered to the newly elected councilmen by the burgess, who had previously taken the oath of office before Justice of the Peace, H. C. Edwards. In the auditors' book, for 1885, now in possession of the school

district, is inscribed the oaths of office of the new borough officers.

Council organized with the election of John P. Smith, as president of council, and J. I. Shoemaker as secretary, pro tem. The second meeting of council was held in the office of President Smith, when H. C. Edwards was elected secretary for the year. The rules of order and by-laws, as drawn up by Thomas P. Ather-ton, were adopted and are still in use. The regular meeting of council was set for the first Wednesday of each month, and has remained unchanged.

The Twenty-third rule of order provided that any member refusing to keep order at the request of the president of council (unless after appeal the council decides that he is in order) for the first offence shall pay a fine of five dollars, and for the second offence be expelled from council.

The Twenty-fourth rule provided that "any member absent from roll call who may be notified and required forthwith to attend any regular meeting of which he has had previous notice, shall pay to the borough constable, or other officer serving the notice, a fee of twenty-five cents".

The Twenty-fifth rule provides that the "failure to pay any fine imposed by council" makes it obligatory on council to expel the member.

At this meeting a device for the borough seal was adopted. The device was proposed by J. I. Shoemaker and J. A. Hutchins, committee. The device consisted of a facsimilie of the Wyoming Monument, with the words "Borough of Wyoming, Luzerne County, Pa." This seal is still used by the borough.

A resolution was also adopted "that the present police force appointed by the Act of Assembly be empowered to act in that capacity until their successors were appointed and confirmed". As far as can be learned this police force consisted of the constables of Kingston township living within the limits of the new borough.

At a special meeting of council, held August 19, 1885, the burgess reported the appointment of Amos Sutton as policeman, which appointment was confirmed by council. Mr. Sutton, therefore, had the honor of



BERNARD E. PIORKOWSKI
Borough Secretary



WILLIAM BOYD
Borough Treasurer



JOSEPH OSTROSKIE
First Ward Councilman



ANTHONY ZAWACKI
First Ward Councilman





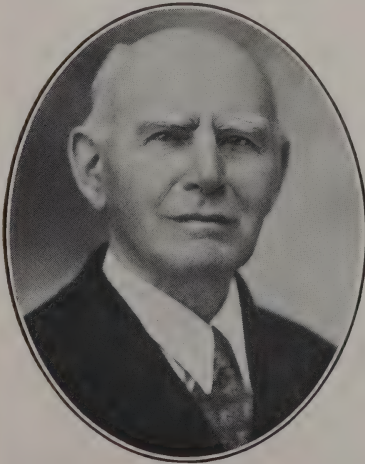
KARL ECKERT
President of Council



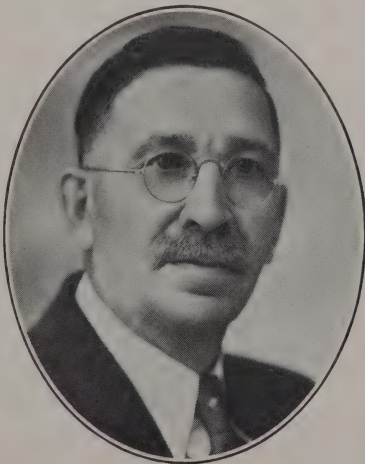
GEORGE C. MOORE
Second Ward Councilman

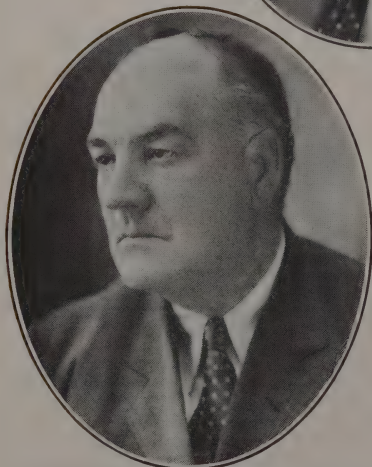


H. H. McKEEHAN
Third Ward Councilman



GEORGE F. HILEMAN
Third Ward Councilman





TOP: THOMAS PARKINSON, Chief of Police; JOSEPH SHADY, Ass't Chief
CENTER: RUDOLPH MAGAGNA, Borough Attorney
BOTTOM: JOHN WILLIAMS, Street Commissioner; MERLE BREESE, Boro. Engineer

being the first police officer in Wyoming. This special meeting was called for the purpose of passing organization ordinances on second reading. The meeting was called to order at two o'clock in the afternoon. Reading of the ordinances began at that time and continued until four o'clock when a recess was taken until seven-thirty to permit the members to eat their suppers. Council reconvened at half past seven o'clock, and continued in session until nearly midnight.

At another special meeting held September 2nd, Burgess Hancock appointed James Sanders, chief of police, and the following as patrolmen: E. D. Vanauken, John Dougher, Amos Sutton, J. M. Holmes and Wilbur Rozelle. No salaries were attached to any of these offices, the officers being paid by fees for each arrest. J. B. Schooley was elected treasurer at this meeting.

After the incorporation of the borough, C. I. A. Chapman was engaged to make a map of the borough, and corner stones were ordered placed at the different boundries of the borough.

When the borough was incorporated there was no division into wards. On May 1, 1891, the Court divided the borough into two wards, the dividing line being the tracks of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad. The ward lying east of the tracks was known as the East Ward, and that west of the tracks as the West Ward.

Two political factions developed in the borough, one faction in the East Ward and the other in the West Ward. The differences between these two factions finally became so bitter that the faction of the West Ward presented a petition to the court of April Session, 1898, asking for a division of the borough into two boroughs. The petition was submitted to the grand jury in May, which reported favorably on the matter, and on June 23, 1898, the Court handed down a decree setting off the West Ward as the Borough of West Wyoming.

For a number of years after the division of the borough, the boroughs of Wyoming and West Wyoming acted together in the awarding of contracts for electric street lighting, and the Wyoming Fire Department continued to respond to fire alarms in both boroughs. In later years the boroughs have each gone their own

ways in borough matters, excepting that the fire departments of both boroughs have always maintained friendly relations and respond to alarms in both boroughs whenever necessary.

The division of the borough in 1898, left Wyoming borough with only three councilmen, Nicholas Rapson, James Eagen and Calvin Hess. These three elected three others to fill out the terms of the West Ward members. These new members were: J. Frank Nuss, John Keller and R. R. Laycock. The division also affected the assessed valuation of the borough, and a committee was appointed to find out the value of the coal underlying the borough of Wyoming. This committee consisted of Claude G. Harsch, J. Frank Smith and James D. Green. The committee was assisted by E. Hartwell who was appointed by the county commissioners. The committee reported the entire borough had been calculated and accounted for. There was also placed in the hands of the assessors a more detailed statement giving the number of lots, to whom assessed and the thickness of each vein of coal. A rate of \$50 per acre for each foot-thickness of coal was set. The total acreage was 97.03, and the assessed valuation of the coal placed at \$72,981. The coal ranged in thickness from one foot to nearly twelve and one-half feet. The millage, fixed August 9, of that year, was twelve mills, divided as follows: General purposes, four mills light and water, six mills; indebtedness, two mills.

On February 6, 1899, the Court divided Wyoming into three wards, with the following boundries: First Ward, from Exeter borough line to the north-east side of Sixth Street; Second Ward, from the south-west side of Sixth Street to the north-east side of Eighth Street; Third Ward from the north-east side of Eighth Street to the borough line at Forty Fort borough. The dividing lines between the wards stretched from the tracks of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to the river.

For fifteen years after the incorporation of the borough in 1885, council used the public school buildings as meeting places. For many years the Butler Street school house was so used, and later a two room, one story frame building which stood on the same lot with the Butler Street school.

TOWN HALL

From early in the history of the borough the idea of building a town hall was considered, but no definite action taken, although committees had been appointed to look at different lots and get prices. Invariably after reporting the committees were discharged without further action being taken in the matter.

Finally on December 19, 1900, an ordinance was introduced providing for bonding the borough for \$5,000 for the erection of a suitable building. On September 5, previous to the introduction of the ordinance the borough solicitor had been instructed to arrange for a popular election on the proposition of bonding the borough for this purpose. The proposition had been submitted to the citizens at an election on November 7, and had been approved. The bonding ordinance passed third and final reading on January 2, 1901.

During the months when the question was being considered by the voters and council, a number of lots had been offered to the borough at prices ranging from \$10 per front foot to \$1,350 for the Polen property at the corner of Breese Street and Wyoming Avenue.

The matter of purchasing a lot was taken up at the regular meeting on January 2, 1901. Council then consisted of A. C. Shoemaker, Thomas Lowson, T. B. Smith, William Pyne, D. H. Canouse and Nicholas Rapson. W. W. Stocker was burgess.

Council had given consideration to the different lots but evidently a great difference of opinion existed between the members as to which lot should be purchased. At the meeting of January 2, referred to previously, the matter was brought up for final action. That the feeling was strong and the debate bitter is evidenced by the minutes of that meeting, part of which is quoted here:

"Filibustering tactics and more arguments, and Mr. Stephens (a citizen) added the weight of his arguments to the side tending to show that the taxpayers would feel better satisfied if council purchased a lot in, or near, the center of town. All councilmen took the floor at different times and in words eloquent made strong speeches in favor of their respective opinions, and the janitor became somewhat mixed up and spit on the floor,



TOWN HALL, ERECTED 1902

contrary to a notice posted against such practice in the room."

While the discussion was at its height one of the minority members left the room before the vote could be taken, and when he failed to return the other minority member went to look for him. When neither returned the meeting adjourned on account of no quorum.

At the following meeting, February 6, an ordinance providing for the purchase of the Polen lot at a price of \$1,350, was introduced. This lot was 63 feet front on Wyoming Avenue and 150 feet deep on Breese Street, containing approximately 3450 square feet. The ordinance passed on first reading by a vote of four to two. At the next regular meeting Messrs. Pyne and Rapson, whose term had expired, were succeeded by William Jenkins and Sterling Sax. When the ordinance came up for second reading, it was rejected by a vote of four to two, reversing the former vote, the new members voting with the two who had opposed the ordinance at the previous meeting.

This action apparently killed the purchase of the Polen lot, but on April 3, 1901, we find the members of council had looked over the lot and at this meeting the action taken previously was again reversed, the ordinance amended, substituting \$1,300 for the \$1,350 as the purchase price, and adopted by unanimous vote on third and final reading. The ordinance was presented to Burgess Stocker for his signature. He refused to sign the ordinance and did not veto it, but held it over the required ten days' limit, permitting it to become a law without his signature.

On May 20, the president of Council, A. C. Shoemaker, appointed a committee consisting of T. B. Smith, H. H. Antrim and Thomas Lowson to meet representatives of the Polen estate at the Peoples Bank, Pittston, on May 22, to complete the purchase of the lot. Mr. Antrim a member of this committee had been elected a member of council at the regular meeting May 1, to succeed William Jenkins, who resigned, having moved from the ward he represented in council.

On September 3, 1901, an ordinance was introduced in council to purchase the lot on Breese Street, adjoining town hall property at a cost of \$400. This

lot was fifty feet wide and one hundred and twenty-seven feet deep, which was added to the lot previously purchased making the present town hall property.

Before the purchase of the first lot, plans had been submitted for the proposed borough building. Various architects had been consulted and their sketches considered. The plans submitted by T. L. Olds were finally selected, and a contract entered into with him on June 18, 1901. Mr. Olds was the foremost architect of his day in this section. He was the designer of Irem Temple, Wilkes-Barre, and of numerous other fine buildings. In 1934, the Wilkes-Barre Record published a reproduction of a design for improving Market Street, Kingston, and the construction of a new bridge. Although Mr. Olds did not live to see the fulfillment of his vision, and as far as known, his plans were not used either in planning the new Memorial bridge at Wilkes-Barre, or in the widening of Market Street, still there is a remarkable similarity of what he planned could be done, and what has since been carried out.

Mr. Olds received a fee of five per cent of the cost of the building as compensation for his plans and supervision of the work.

Bids for the building were opened on August 21, 1901. There were nine bids presented, but all were too high and therefore were rejected. Council had appropriated \$5,000 for the building, and wished to keep within that figure. The plans were changed, and new bids asked for. These bids were received on October 2, and were four in number as follows: Rozelle Brothers, \$6,467; W. G. Snell and Bro., \$6,230; E. W. Larish, \$6,473; Herbert E. Jones, \$5,600. The contract was awarded to Mr. Jones.

In addition to the cost of the building, council paid \$126.13, for doors to vault; and \$180 for two steel cells. The roof over the steps, built in 1910 cost \$96. The total cost of the building, according to the minutes of council, was \$7,701.13. The steam heating plant, which in 1908, replaced the furnace put in when the building was erected, cost \$397.70.

Council held its first meeting in the building June 2, 1902. The first time the building was used for a polling place was in November, 1902, council received \$10

from the County Commissioners for its use. At every election since that time the polling place for the Second Ward has been in this building.

STREETS

Citizens of Wyoming are proud of its streets, many of them lined with fine shade trees, and all paved with good material. Wyoming Avenue, of course is the oldest street in the town. This street, ninety-nine feet wide, was laid out by a committee appointed by the First Forty settlers for the purpose. In 1770, the committee, composed of Silas Bingham, William Buck, John Perkins, Timothy Smith, Reuben Davis, and John Jenkins, laid out the "Great Road" from the lower end of Kingston Township to Wyoming. In 1774, the selectmen of Westmoreland Town, composed of Samuel Ransom, George Dorrance, John Jenkins, and Christopher Avery, extended the road through Wyoming to the Exeter Township line. Early records indicate that the "Great Road", in many places ran nearer the river than Wyoming Avenue does now.

What is now West Eighth Street, is the next oldest road. A number of early records indicate that this was a lane early in the history of the township. There is a court order of January session 1794, laying out this road two rods wide between lots 34 and 35. This court order provided for the road to run from the "Great Road" to the "Back Road" now Shoemaker Avenue. This road was later widened to three rods, taking two rods from lot 35 and one from lot 34.

Shoemaker Avenue was laid out in 1794, on the same day as West Eighth Street; also the part of West Eighth Street through the Hollow and on to Orange. The road to the Wyoming Camp Ground and the Lewis Fruit Farm was laid out two years later.

W. T. Blair in the Michael Shoemaker book says that streets of Wyoming in 1873 were known by the following names: Sharpes Avenue was Market Street; Monument Avenue was Monument Street; Susquehanna Avenue was River Street; Fifth Street was Walnut Street; Sixth Street was Main Street, and ran from Wyoming Avenue to Miller's Ferry; West Eighth Street, was Railroad Street. At the time of the incorporation of the borough West Eighth Street was known as Frank-

lin Street, and even after it had been named West Eighth Street, it is mentioned in the minutes of council both as Franklin Street and Railroad Street. In the minutes of council, August 3, 1887, we find that Seventh Street was also called Miller Street.

One of the first ordinances adopted by council after its incorporation was passed December 2, 1885, naming the streets of the borough as following beginning from the river: Susquehanna, Dorrance, Dennison, Butler, Monument, Wyoming, Pettebone, and Shoemaker. These were all named avenues, and ran east and west.

Streets running north and south, were to be known as streets. The ordinance began by naming Fourth Street, and numbered the streets consecutively up to Ninth Street. Small streets running off Wyoming Avenue, were named Reeve Place, and Breese Place. The three numbers above Fourth Street, were left blank, but have since been numbered First, Second and Third Streets.

Miller's Ferry which ran from the end of Sixth Street to Port Blanchard, was established sometime before 1806. This ferry was operated by Christopher Miller for many years. He sold it to John Sharpes who, with his son James Sharpes ran it for more than one hundred years. The ferry was abandoned in 1914, when the Wyoming bridge was built.

East Eighth Street, was opened in 1896, after a long struggle in which court action was finally invoked. Viewers appointed by court allowed damages as follows; To the Estate of George Stark, \$2,250; to Mrs. George Graley, \$1,785, Mrs. Graley to have the house on the property and the borough to move it; A. Brace Estate \$4,435. A building on the Stark property was sold by the borough for \$46, and an addition to it for \$6. The borough paid \$249 for repairing the Brace home.

An ordinance providing of the laying of sidewalks on the streets of the borough was passed in 1906; also one requiring the cleaning of walks six hours after snow had ceased falling. The numbering of houses was required by an ordinance passed June 10, 1916, one number for each sixteen feet.

STREET LIGHTS

On April 14, 1894, the borough solicitor was directed to draw up an ordinance providing for bids for the erection of a municipal electric light plant. The plant was to supply electricity for fifty arc lights of two hundred candle power each, and five hundred incandescent lights, five and one-quarter miles of wire, necessary poles and a one hundred and fifty horsepower engine.

On June 6, a motion was made to petition the Court of Quarter Sessions for a special election to bond the borough for \$15,000 to erect this plant, and also provided for a tax of eight mills for light and water. The ordinance was passed December, 1894.

The plant was not built, and a year later, December 4, 1895, bids were asked for furnishing both arc and incandescent street lights. Arc lights were to be of two thousand candle power, to burn from dusk to daylight, the number to be thirty-five.

Three bids were received on December 18. James L. Crawford, of Scranton, operator of the Mount Look-out Colliery, just over the borough line in Exeter, bid \$75 per arc, per annum, or \$35 for electricity delivered at the Wyoming-Exeter borough line. The second bid required the borough to furnish poles, wire, lamps, etc. Mr. Crawford also offered to supply electric current for incandescent lights for stores, homes, etc., but not for street lights, for from one cent to four cents per candle power per month, depending upon the number of lights used by the customers, the company to furnish all lamps and make renewals, the minimum cost to be \$2.50 per month.

O. M. Lance and W. H. Clark of Plymouth bid \$79 per arc and \$20 for twenty-five candle power incandescents, the borough to have the privilege of running fire alarm wires on the poles.

The Wyoming Electric Light and Power Company of Wyoming bid \$80 per arc. This bid was signed by J. Frank Nuss, secretary and Richard E. Hutchins, treasurer.

Joseph A. Murray of Wilkes-Barre, bid twenty-seven cents per arc per night.

The contract was awarded to James L. Crawford, low bidder and he was required to furnish a bond of \$10,000. The electricity came from a plant at the colliery of the Mt. Lookout Coal Company, and was furnished by the Wyoming Electric Light and Power Company. This company was absorbed by the Luzerne County Gas and Electric Company, July 18, 1910.

On May 4, 1910, the Gas Company of Wyoming Valley was granted a franchise for thirty-five years from that date, to supply gas to consumers in the borough at the rate of \$1.25 per thousand cubic feet, with a discount of fifteen cents if the bill should be paid within ten days from presentation. This company was later absorbed by the Luzerne County Gas and Electric Company, which in 1908 had asked for a franchise in the borough, but on which no action was taken by council.

WATER

The Spring Brook Water Company, on June 3, 1896, was granted a franchise to lay a thirty-inch water main on the north side of Wyoming Avenue. The main was to be laid four feet from the main which supplied the borough with water. This thirty-inch pipe was to supply water to communities farther down the valley. There is no record in the minutes of the borough council granting a franchise for the main for local water supply, evidently this main having been laid before the borough was incorporated.

TELEPHONES

The Central Pennsylvania Telephone and Supply Company was granted a franchise for phones in the borough on November 16, 1892.

The Peoples Telephone Company, an independent concern, was granted a franchise on April 3, 1901.

Both these companies have been absorbed by the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania.

SEWERS

Several short sewers had been constructed by the borough and by individuals early in the history of the borough. The first move to construct a general sewer system was on November 9, 1910, when the proposition to bond the borough for \$40,000 was submitted to the

voters. The vote in the borough was 213 for bonding the borough and 66 against the proposition. The bonds were to run twenty-two years and were to bear interest at five per cent.

On March 31, 1911, bids were opened by council for the construction of the sewer in the second district and part of the first district. There were eleven bids submitted, ranging from a low of \$55,478.30 to \$79,791.27. On April 4, the contract was awarded to Bolton G. Coon at his bid of \$55,478.30. The ordinance provided that the borough should pay not more than \$40,000, and the cost of laterals should be divided between the borough and the property owners along the line of the sewers.

The ordinance provided for a sewer 5,300 feet long. The assessed valuation of the borough at this time was \$1,147,355.00, and there were no outstanding debts.

Since the construction of this sewer the sewerage of the first district has been completed and several additions have been made to the storm sewer system.

FIRE PROTECTION

Wyoming has first-class fire protection through a first-class fire alarm system and two well organized fire companies.

The first fire alarm system was installed late in the fall of 1896, and was tested and approved in January 1897. This system has been overhauled and modernized within the last few years, and is always kept in first-class condition.

Wyoming has two fire companies, No. 1, organized in 1894, and No. 2, organized 1908. Further details about these companies will be found in another place.

The first fire plugs for fire purposes, six in number, were reported in place at a meeting of council January 5, 1895. The contract with the Wyoming Water Company was approved by council December 11, 1894. For many years a large steam gong was used for fire alarm purposes. This gong was located at the Mt. Lookout Colliery, and was purchased in 1897 at a cost of \$80. After the colliery was abandoned an electric siren was erected on town hall and is still in use.



VOLUNTEER HOSE COMPANY, No. 1

WYOMING HOSE COMPANY No. 1

Wyoming Hose Company No. 1, was organized and chartered October 26, 1894. The first officers of the company were: President, Dr. C. P. Knapp; Vice-President, J. D. Lloyd; Secretary, W. J. Fowler; Treasurer, W. S. Jacobs.

The members whose names appear on the charter were: K. J. Kelly, James Eagen, C. H. Townend, C. H. Wilner, J. M. Schooley, James J. Tonrey, George H. Stevens, Charles Crouse, H. J. Hoover, John Keller, John B. Kitchen, H. L. Dailey, William Cruickshank, Amos B. Sax, George A. Graley, A. W. Gay, E. G. LaFrance, Thomas Gregg, J. B. Schooley, K. R. Jones.

The present officers of the company are: President, Richard Lyons; Vice-President, Donald Lyons; Secretary Adolph Mannini; Treasurer, Robert Schollenberger.

The directors are: Theodore Buyanoski, Stanley Vincent, Nicholas Lukesh, Joseph Murray, Paul Schulde and Francis Hooper.

The company owns its own hose house which, in 1923, it leased to the borough for twenty years at a yearly rental of one dollar.

The American LaFrance pumper, purchased in 1924, by the borough at a cost of \$13,000 is housed in the hose house and is used by the company.

When the borough purchased the pumper it also hired a full-time driver. He lives, with his family, in the living apartments on the second floor of the hose house. Three drivers have been employed since 1924; Peter J. Kelly, 1924-26; Thomas Eckroth, 1926-29; and Stanley Vincent, 1929 to the present time.

WYOMING HOSE COMPANY No. 2

Wyoming Hose Company No. 2, was organized in 1908, and a charter was granted by court on May 20 of that year. The charter members were: Richard B. Brown, Arthur E. Bambee, Arthur E. Chesworth, Edward Cruickshank, Ira Crawford, John B. Huey, Calvin Hess, William Tarleton, William H. Reese, W. J. Hess, James E. Hess, Frank Keller, Kenneth H. Wendling, E. V. Wendling, William Drane, Jr., Charles Smith,



VOLUNTEER HOSE COMPANY NO. 2

Charles Foote, William Goode, John Dymond, Walter King, Isaac Drane, Clarence Spencer, Charles A. Linville, Frank L. Pocknell, Richard Jones, Joseph Pattelon, George T. Hess, T. W. Garnett, T. L. Frankosky, John Dworski, William S. Taylor, Thomas Welliver, Patrick Manley, Harry E. Stocker, George Givens.

The first officers were: Richard Brown, President; William Goode, Vice-President; Kenneth H. Wendling, Secretary; James E. Hess, Treasurer. The directors were: Walter King, Ira Crawford, John Garnett, E. V. Wendling, M. S. Frankofsky, Frank E. Pocknell.

The officers in 1935 are: President, Alfred S. Glatz; Vice-President, Frank Kamor, Jr.; Secretary, John Endrusick; Treasurer, Louis Shishilla; Directors, Neil Ciotola, Gino Gavazzi, Alex Zuba, Joseph Sondy, Adam Lulewicz, Stanley Savitski.

Early in its organization the company was equipped with a two wheel hose reel; later, when No. 1 was given the use of the pumper in 1924, the Reo fire truck used by that company was turned over to No. 2 company.

In September, 1934, the borough purchased a modern Chevrolet fire truck, equipped with chemical tank and all other fire-fighting apparatus for No. 2 company, and now it is as well equipped as any volunteer company in the state.

BURGESSES OF WYOMING

The following men have served as burgess of Wyoming since the incorporation of the borough: William Hancock, 1885-86; H. Corey Townend, 1887; John J. Breese, 1888; H. J. Best, acting burgess, 1889; Charles Crouse, 1890; J. V. Baker, 1893; Joseph D. Lloyd, 1894; T. B. Smith, 1895; Merritt Sax, 1897; Calvin Hess, 1889; J. M. Goode, 1889; W. W. Stocker, 1900; J. V. Mullen, 1903; Arthur Eicke, 1906; Samuel S. Gingell, 1909; Mathew Farrell, 1917; John Masel, 1921; Jesse Shaver, 1921; John Lawson, 1923; John Masel, 1925.

Burgess Masel is now serving his third term, a longer term than any other burgess in Wyoming.

SECRETARIES

H. C. Edwards, 1885; George F. Richmond, 1886;

Merritt Sax, 1889; H. D. Laycock, 1895; H. C. Jones, 1895; Vinton L. Breese, 1896; J. R. Space, 1916; Mrs. Carol Kearns, 1927; Thomas Hooper, 1928; Bernard Piorkowski, 1929. Mrs. Kearns was elected to fill out the unexpired term of her father, following his death in 1927.

Some of those who served as borough treasurer since the incorporation of the borough are: C. G. Harsch, 1905; Ira DeWitt, 1897; John Shulde, 1911; Charles Townend, 1910; W. H. Patterson, 1887; James Eagen, 1916; William Boyd, 1926.

COUNCILMEN

A list of citizens who have served on the borough council since its incorporation is given here, including those who were elected by council and appointed by court to fill vacancies. As far as the writer has been able to learn this list is correct, although many secretaries have failed to record the names of new members at reorganization meetings. The dates are those of first election:

J. P. Smith, C. P. Knapp, J. A. Hutchins, John Sharpes, J. I. Shoemaker, 1886; Thomas English, R. K. Laycock, 1887; William Hancock, John Smith, 1888; William Stocker, Wilbur Rozelle, 1889; Fisher Gay, 1891; A. J. Crouse, J. E. Sanders, 1893; J. V. Mullen, William Cruickshank, G. W. Marsh, 1894; J. V. Baker, John Lloyd, 1895; D. D. Durland, 1896; James Eagen, E. G. LaFrance, 1897; N. Rapson, 1898; D. H. Canouse, A. C. Shoemaker, William Pyne, Charles Babcock, George H. Graley, 1899; T. B. Smith, Thomas Lowson, W. W. Jenkins, Sterling Sax, 1901; Charles Hoffman, 1902; Harry Jones, J. B. Schooley, Charles H. Townend, William T. Hutchins, 1904; Freeman Austin, 1905; E. V. Wendling, R. T. Hutchins, A. C. Stevens, 1906; James J. Tonrey, 1908; Fred S. Nagle, 1909; Kerry J. Kelly, Elmer Z. Smith, 1910; M. B. Somers, John Lowson, Cornelius Ward, John Masel, H. G. Shulde, 1913; Patrick Curry, Joseph S. Eckert, 1915; Fred B. Wheeler, 1917; Harry Chapman, William Space, Harry O. Rhoades, 1919; John Dworski, Robert Breese, 1921; William Semmens, H. H. McKeegan, 1923; George C. Moore, John H. Heale, William Eckert, 1925; Joseph Ostroski, 1927; William Carpenter, 1928; Edward Dougherty, Karl Eckert, George F. Hileman, 1929; Anthony Zavacki, 1933.

Councilmen in 1935 are as follows: First Ward—Joseph Ostroski, Anthony Zavacki; Second Ward—Karl Eckert, President of Council, George Moore; Third Ward—H. H. McKeehan, George F. Hileman; Secretary of Council, Bernard Piorkowski.

BOROUGH POLICE

Wyoming has always been fortunate in its selection of men for its police force. The men chosen for this difficult work have been men of integrity and devoted to their duty. There is no complete record of the men who have served the borough in this capacity, but from the minutes of council a fairly accurate list has been compiled.

For a number of years both the chief of police and the patrolmen were paid a fee for each arrest. During this time several burgesses made recommendations that the chief of police be paid a salary of \$5.00 per month, and one of the most interesting messages ever presented to the borough council was that of Burgess Joseph D. Lloyd in his monthly report presented April 3, 1895, his third recommendation of the kind. This message is too lengthy to give here but his castigation of "corner loafers," "living monuments," "wall flowers" and "gentlemen statuary" who "make a hobby of holding down the sidewalks and blocking the thoroughfares" was something to be remembered by the young men of that day. The only action taken by council on the matter was to receive the recommendation and order it spread on the minutes. Eight years later, April 1903, council did fix a salary of five dollars per month for the chief of police, and an additional five dollars was paid him for acting as janitor. There is no record of hours to be served by the chief of police until May 2, 1906, when council fixed his hours as follows: April to October, 8 to 10 p. m.; paydays and Saturdays, 7 to 12; October to April, 7 to 10 p. m.; paydays and Saturdays, 7 to 12 midnight. For this work he was paid the magnificent sum of \$12.00 per month. In addition to his police work he had to patrol the entire borough and report hours the electric lights were out.

The following have served as chiefs of police, according to the minutes of council: James E. Sanders, 1885; James J. Goode, 1887; J. M. Holmes, 1888-89; William Parrish, 1890; S. J. Church, 1891; Benjamin Bunn, 1892; John J. Goode, 1893; W. G. Shelly, 1894; Thomas J. Johnson, 1895; Thomas McGovern, 1896; Enoch Francis,

1897; William Shine, 1898. After the division of the borough, August 3, 1898, the following served: Samuel Gingell, 1898; Clinton Shoemaker, 1899; Samuel Gingell, 1900-02; Thomas W. Pocknell, 1903-07; B. W. Somers, 1908-10; Albert Solomon, 1911-16; Edward Brennan, 1916-17; Hiram Long, 1918; James J. Tonrey, 1919-22.

On February 1, 1923, Thomas Parkinson, a member of Troop B. State Police for fifteen years, was elected chief of police and street commissioner. In 1927 he was relieved of the position of street commissioner, when James Tonrey was elected to that position. Mr. Parkinson has been retained by the borough as chief of the borough police ever since, and is regarded as one of the best officers in Wyoming Valley.

Citizens who have served as police officers since the incorporation of the borough, as far as can be learned from minutes of council are: Amos Sutton, E. D. Van-Auken, John Dougher, J. M. Holmes, Wilbur Rozelle, Jonathan Vicks, R. A. Miller, Thomas Martin, James R. Greiner, William Stocker, Jacob Stevens, Frank E. Schmall, H. McAlpine, Patrick Barrett, John Aikens, John Lloyd, H. C. Townend, Vinton L. Breese, William Drane, Walter Marsh, George Space, Warren Casterline, J. V. Mullen, J. J. Goode, William Cruickshank, John Dymond, Simon Smith, Ira H. Schooley, Samuel Stevenson, John Wilson, Morris Shafer, William Bainbridge, J. H. Schooley, H. J. Hoover, E. M. Parrish, Clayton Ryman, Oscar Fear, W. B. Somers, Alvin Robbins, William Polhameus, Hiram Smithers, Stephen Robbins, Joseph Dymond, William Bartholemew, J. R. LaFrance, Thomas McGovern, James Waters, F. P. Dennis, Walter Wycoff, Charles Spencer, George Clarke, Lewis Rinker, Lyman Tracy, J. V. Baker, Philip Parsons, Henry Weiss, William Johnson, Martin Myronic, William Bryden, Thomas Carter, George Scott, Reese Bennett, Henry Semmons, F. M. Nulton, C. A. Weiss, M. H. Gilbert, George Scott, G. T. Biglow, Joshua Vincent, John Hurley, Thomas Jeffrey, John Dworski, George Martin, William Davis, Amos Bierman, George Maston, George Dworski, Allan Wallace, Albert Solomon, Arthur Webb, Edward Mott, Oscar Nulton, George Hill, Thomas Hislop, T. B. Hughes, C. S. Shoemaker, T. B. Smith, Nathaniel Smith, Elmer Stevens, George Gable, Lute Ancoline, Morgan Lewis, David McGuinness, William G. Shelly, William Rozelle, Hiram Wolfinger, S. A. Lake, Edward Brennan, Hiram Long, Joseph Coslick, James Barney, Harry LaBar, Bert Boyer, Clarence Laird, Andrew Patrick, William

Montgomery, Verne DeWolf, Elijah Garnett, Arthur Buffton, Leo Covato, Daniel O'Connor, Clarence Sheffer, Thomas Macko, Andrew Zavada, Walter Walutis, Peter Huntz, Joseph Shady.

Edward Brennan, chief of police in 1916 and 1917 was murdered by an escaping murderer, early on the morning of July 29, 1918, while attempting to arrest the criminal. Chief of Police Ralph Dailey, of West Wyoming, while dispersing a crowd of hoodlums in his borough, shortly after midnight on July 29, was shot dead by one of the crowd who fled toward Wyoming. Chief Brennan, who learned of the murder, saw a man fleeing across a field near the borough line and gave chase. He had almost reached his man when the fellow turned and fired a shot, killing Brennan instantly.

A West Wyoming man was later arrested, charged with both murders but was acquitted because the evidence, largely circumstantial, was not definite enough to convince the jury of his guilt.

ENGINEERS

The following have served as engineers for the borough: C. I. A. Chapman, Ira Hartwell, 1886; Steuben Jenkins, 1889; S. J. Steele, 1897; W. B. Alleger, 1906; Fred Young, 1906; Thomas Wright, W. T. Hutchins, Charles Golden, 1917; Merle Breese, 1912.

SOLICITORS

E. V. Jackson, 1887; Thomas H. Atherton, 1889; W. S. McLean, 1890; Paul J. Sherwood, 1896; P. A. O'Boyle, 1898; W. I. Hibbs, 1900; James Allen, 1907; W. S. Taylor, 1910; Rudolph Magagna, 1929.

TAX COLLECTORS

M. V. Rozelle, 1886; J. B. Kitchen, 1889; J. V. Baker, 1891; R. Hutchins, 1892; Henry Durland, 1892; Samuel Space, 1903; John Keller, 1909; J. J. Gilligan, 1913; Thomas Hislop, 1929.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

John T. Nixon, 1887; J. B. Cole, 1888; Steuben Jenkins, 1890; W. J. Sanders, 1893; M. Sax, 1896; J. I. Shoemaker, 1898; Calvin Hess, 1899; Richard Williams,

1904; Samuel Gingell, 1905; J. J. Curry, 1911; William D. Parry, 1913; Samuel Booth, 1919; William Williams, E. E. Ross, Edward F. Mott, Ozias Brown, H. W. Evans.

STREET COMMISSIONERS

Abraham Hoover, 1886; Jeremiah O'Neill, 1887; Dyer Barrett, 1888; J. M. Holmes, 1889; Steuben Church, 1890; William Parrish, 1890; J. E. LaFrance, 1891; Mr. Hoffman, 1893; W. W. Stocker, 1897; John Keller, 1899; James Sanders, 1901; F. M. Nulton, 1902; Daniel Marks, 1903; William Pocknell, 1909; Irwin Weaver, 1912; H. J. Mastin, 1916; James J. Tonrey, 1925; John MacDougall, 1928; John Williams, 1934.

PARKS

Wyoming has one park, known as Monockonock Park, situated between Monument Avenue and Pettebone Street. This park was presented to the borough November 2, 1925, by Mrs. Kate Pettebone Dickson. The deed provided that the plot, which is triangular, shall be used for borough purposes only.

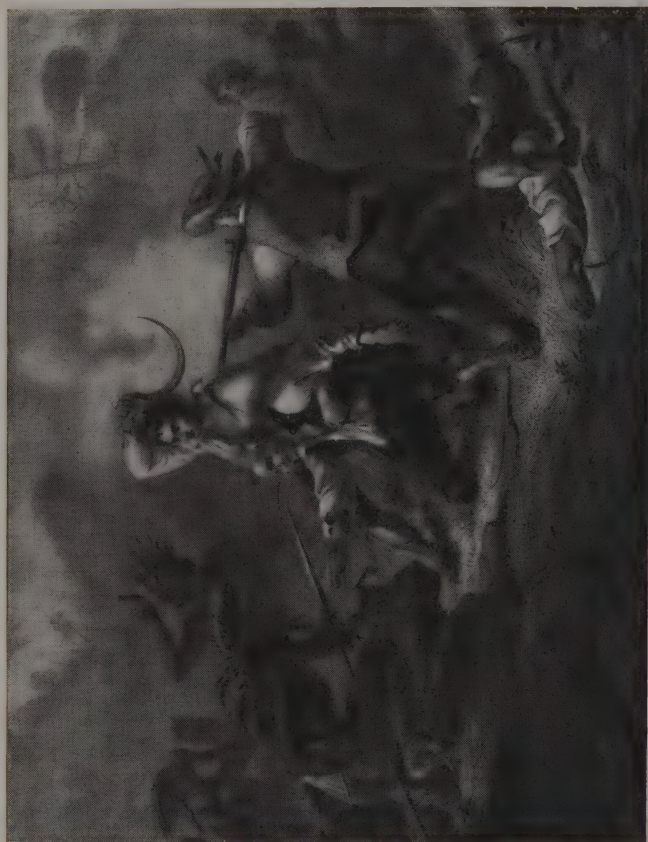


A number of progressive business men of the borough in 1924 conceived the idea of holding a community Fourth of July celebration. The first affair of this kind was carried out on July 4th of that year, and was continued for several years, until business conditions became unfavorable. Sums as high as \$1,300 were contributed by citizens of the town for fire works, and other events while these celebrations were being carried out.

THE BATTLE
and MASSACRE
of WYOMING



Chapter III



THE BATTLE OF WYOMING





THE BATTLE and MASSACRE of WYOMING

WYOMING PEOPLE are so familiar with the main features of the Battle and Massacre of Wyoming that no attempt will be made here to describe the entire action, but details of the battle and massacre as they affect the history of Wyoming will be given briefly.

The Battle took place in Exeter in the vicinity of where St. Cecilia's R. C. Church now stands. The line of battle of the little American force was formed in Wyoming, almost exactly along the line of Fourth Street, between Wyoming Avenue and Susquehanna Avenue. The line of battle was marked during the Sesqui-Centennial in 1928 by the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, signs being erected where each unit had its place in the line. This line of battle was laid out by Captain Samuel Ransom, Captain Robert Durkee, Lieutenant James Wells, and Lieutenant Pereh Ross, and was 1,600 feet long from Susquehanna Avenue and within 400 feet of the swamp which, at that time extended along the line of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad tracks.

All the companies, excepting that of Captain Dethick Hewitt, were part of the 24th Regiment of Connecticut

Militia. Captain Hewitt's Company, was a detached company of the Connecticut Continental Line.

The line of battle was formed shortly after four o'clock in the afternoon, in the following order, beginning at the river bank where Susquehanna Avenue now is:

Colonel Zebulon Butler, in command with Major John Garret as aide. Captain Dethick Hewitt's Company of the Connecticut Continental Line, about 35 men; The Lower Wilkes-Barre Company, Captain James Bidlack in command, 38 men; The Upper Wilkes-Barre Company, Captain Rezin Gere in command, 30 men; The Plymouth Company, Captain Asaph Whittlesey in command, 44 men; The Hanover Company, Lazarus Stewart in command, 30 men; The Kingston Company, Captain Aholiab Buck in command, 40 men; Part of the Huntington-Salem Company, under command of Lieutenant Stoddard Bowen, 15 men; Part of First Alarm List Company under command of Lebbeus Tubbs; Part of Second Alarm List Company, under command of Lieutenant Flavius Waterman. Colonel Nathan Dennison was in command of the left with Lieutenant George Dorrance.

Captain Robert Durkee and Captain Samuel Ransom, both of the Connecticut Continental Line, who had left their companies under General George Washington, and returned to their homes in the valley when they heard of the invasion by the British and Indians, were also in line. Captain Durkee was with Captain Bidlack's company and Captain Ransom with Captain Whittlesey's company. The militia numbered about 225 men, and various authorities state that approximately 100 men from the Continental forces with Washington, who had left their commands when they heard of the invasion of the valley, had added themselves to the various companies. Colonel Dennison said that the entire number was a little over 300 men and boys, while others think that 400 is more nearly correct.

The little army advanced to within 300 feet of the British line, which was in Exeter. The battle began at about four thirty o'clock, and continued until five o'clock. The massacre followed the battle and continued until daylight. How many were killed on the line of battle is not known, but Captain John Franklin, who visited the battlefield shortly after the battle, says that the number was very small. Most of those killed during the massacre fell within the boundries of what is now Wyoming Borough.

While not in Wyoming, the British line of battle might be of interest to some.

Beginning at the river bank the line was as follows: A company of Rangers under command of Captain John Johnson, Rangers under Lieutenant Marshall Terry, Jr., American Tory. A company under command of Captain William Caldwell; Lieutenant John Turner, American Tory, Queen Esther, and her Indians.

Captain Roland Montour, nephew of Queen Esther, Seneca Indians.

"Stuttering" John Montour and Big Tree in command of bands of Seneca Indians.

"Little Beard" celebrated Seneca warrior, and John Halftown, Seneca war chief with their bands of Seneca Indians.

"The Nephew" (known also as Governor Black-Smoke) with a band of Senecas.

All were under the command of Major John Butler of Butler's Rangers, assisted by Sayenguerachta, also known as "Old Smoke." "Old Smoke" was the great chief of the Senecas, a renowned warrior, and considered one of the wisest sachems of his time. Morgan, the historian of the Iroquois, said of "Old Smoke" that he was "The greatest Indian that ever lived."

The combined British and Indian forces have

been placed at between six and seven hundred, although Butler, in his report claimed a much smaller number.

Some weeks after the battle Lieutenant John Jenkins, grandfather of the late Steuben Jenkins, of Wyoming with a detail of twenty-five men from Captain Spalding's Connecticut Continental company, which had arrived in the valley after the massacre, set out to bury those slain during the conflict. Using an ox cart to carry the bodies, the detail set out from Forty Fort, gathering up the bodies as they were discovered. When the cart was full the detail stopped to dig a grave. Finding there was still room for more the soldiers proceeded up the valley on their mission, picking up a body here and another there, until the cart could hold no more. Then they returned to the grave and deposited their load. This they continued until all the dead had been placed in the one grave, which they then filled in. The grave was not marked and its location eventually forgotten until plans for the building of a monument were considered. The search for the lost grave and how it was eventually found is told in the story of the monument in this history.



THE MONUMENT



Chapter IV



THE WYOMING MONUMENT



THE MONUMENT

THE FIRST STEPS to provide a lasting tribute to the memory of the brave men who lost their lives in the massacre, was a meeting at the home of James Scovell, (near Forest Castle) Exeter Township, now Exeter Borough, November 25, 1809, for the purpose of planning to erect a monument. Only \$300 was raised at this meeting, and the matter rested for twenty-two years," Thus says Mrs. Anna Smith of Wyoming, in a paper read June 28, 1928, before the Wyoming Monument Association.

The next meeting of record was at Wilkes-Barre, July 22, 1826, when a committee was appointed to draft a set of resolutions providing for a monument. A general committee, consisting of seventy-five men was appointed to solicit subscriptions.

Payne Pettebone, in a letter to Wesley Johnson, dated November 8, 1881, and printed in "Wyoming One Hundred Years," published 1882, says that "Early in the year 1832, considerable interest was awakened on the subject of suitably marking the place of the burial of the slain in the massacre of July 3, 1778, and some prospecting for the spot was had without success, because it was in the midst of a field which had been plowed

over for many years, and the mound, if any had ever existed, was entirely obliterated. Some rivalry was gotten up between two political clubs of Wilkes-Barre representing the two factions of the Democratic party."

William Swetland was a member of one of these clubs, and at the suggestion of some of his fellows he undertook to find the bones.

It was known that the grave was on the farm owned by Fisher Gay, and that Philip Jackson, who had worked the farm for many years was most likely to know its location. Mr Swetland engaged Mr. Jackson to find the spot, agreeing to pay him \$20.00 if he was successful. Mr. Pettebone, in his letter said he was engaged by Mr. Swetland as a clerk in his store below where the monument now stands. He says that Mr. Jackson prepared an iron rod about six feet long, with a barbed point for probing in the ground to find the spot. On May 22, 1832, after searching for two hours Mr. Jackson found the grave and made its location known to Mr. Swetland.

On June 16, 1832, a meeting was held at the tavern in Kingston, and a set of resolutions adopted, providing for a meeting of citizens at the home of Fisher Gay, Wyoming, on July 3, for the purpose of adopting measures to erect a monument. At this meeting the grave was opened and the bones exposed. Addresses were made by Rev. James May, an Episcopal minister and Rev. Nicholas Murray, a Presbyterian minister, and several others. At this meeting it was determined to purchase of Mr. Gay, one-half acre of land on which the grave was located, and erect a monument on it. Mr. Gay donated the required amount of land, and in Pearce's Annals is recorded a resolution adopted at the meeting, thanking him "for his liberality in bestowing the ground necessary for the erection of the monument and his attention to the meeting."

Mr. Pettebone says that on the day of the opening of the grave a committee consisting of General William Ross, Fisher Gay, Erastus Hill, Charles D. Shoemaker

and Colonel L. Butler were appointed to forward the building of the monument. "In December, Col. Hill," says Mr. Pettebone "Who resided here on the ground and was in active charge, commenced quarrying on our western mountains, and delivering the stone for the foundation and the vault". The vault was a part of the foundation and was intended to hold the bones of the dead.

The bones were not removed from the grave until the spring of 1833, when they were taken up and packed in boxes and stored in the back office of Mr. Swetland's store. They were left in the boxes until December, 1833, when they were deposited in the vault which had been built in the foundation for the monument. The removal of the bones from the grave was necessary as the location of the grave was to be used for the vault.

The corner stone was laid July 3, 1833, by Elisha Blackman, a veteran of the Revolutionary War. Hon. Chester Butler, a descendent of Colonel Zebulon Butler, delivered the address.

The monument is built over the exact spot where the slain were originally buried by Lieutenant John Jenkins and his detail of men from Capt. Spalding's company, in 1778. Mr. Pettebone says that eighty-three skeletons were found in the grave and buried in the vault; Hon. Steuben Jenkins, in his Centennial address, said that ninety-six skeletons were buried in the vault, sixty of which were found on and near the battle line, and the remainder between the battle line and Forty Fort. Colonel John Franklin who visited the battlefield a few days after the battle, said that only a very few were killed on the battle line, the greater number being killed on the line of flight.

The tablet on the Monument records the names of one hundred and seventy killed during the battle and massacre, and forty-nine who escaped. Some of those killed were buried in the little cemetery at the corner of West Eighth Street and Wyoming Avenue, known

later as Oemig's Cemetery, and some in Forty Fort Cemetery, and possibly in other cemeteries and private grave yards.

Morgan and Blanchard were the contractors for the cut stone for the monument. They commenced work early in June, 1833.

Later in June, 1834, when the monument had reached a height of about twenty feet, work was stopped, with considerable cut stone on the ground. "The stone used was brought from what has since been known as the 'Monument Quarry,' near Doty's Place, on the east side of the Susquehanna," says Mr. Pettebone, "a distance of about three miles, and was brought over at Miller's Ferry."

In 1842, the work was recommenced on the monument under the auspices of the Ladies' Monumental Association, with Col. Morehead as contractor. The work was finished before the first of October in 1843, and the cap-stone placed.

The "Ladies' Monumental Association" was organized during the suspension of work on the monument between the years 1834 and 1842, by the ladies of Kingston, Wyoming and Exeter.

After work on the monument was finished the grounds were left in a neglected condition, with fragments of rock and debris scattered all around. The visit of Governor Shunk in 1846 brought out some very sharp criticism from the press and a dinner was held at which \$206 was turned over to the Ladies' Association for cleaning up and enclosing the grounds. The amount was not sufficient for the work and the project dragged until February 1848, when Mr. Fisher Gay made a public appeal, stating that in his gift he had specified that the grounds were to be fenced within one year, and now fifteen years had passed and no fence had been erected.

Some years later the Wyoming Monument Association was incorporated and steps were taken to fix

up the grounds, but nothing resulted from the attempt.

In 1862, the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society appointed a committee to see what could be done. This committee solicited \$985.65, which together with the \$268.66 previously raised was sufficient for the work, but not enough for an iron fence as desired by the association. The decision to build a wood fence caused Mr. Pettebone to go to York, Pa., where at Mt. Wolfe he found a fine growth of yellow locust. After viewing some fence posts which had stood sixty years he purchased sufficient lumber for posts for the fence about the monument plot. This fence was built in 1864, and many of the original posts are still in use after eighty years.

Trees and shrubbery were planted in 1864, the grounds having been graded and prepared by hauling new soil to cover the thin soil and the debris left by the workmen.

Mr. Gay's gift of the ground seems to have been a verbal one, for on April 23, 1856, he deeded the half-acre of ground on which the monument stood, to Payne Pettebone, reciting in the deed that he had previously donated the land but that no written record had been made. Six days later, April 29, Mr. Pettebone and his wife deeded the lot to Moses Wills Woodward. On April 30, 1864, the Wyoming Monument Association having been incorporated, Mr. Woodward deeded the lot to the association. Through the technicality of passing through several transfers the title to the land was now vested in the Wyoming Monument Association and absolutely guaranteed.

The entire cost of the monument, including shrubbery and fencing the lot was over eight thousand dollars, Mr. Wesley Johnson says in his book "Wyoming."

Wyoming Borough council some years ago passed an ordinance providing protection for the monument, the grounds and equipment, and fixing a severe penalty for damaging the monument, shrubbery, fence, and

other equipment and furnishings of the association at the monument.

At all public functions at the monument the borough furnishes police protection as a part of its duty to the public.

The monument stands sixty-two feet six inches high from the level of the ground, resting on the foundation which contains the vault in which are buried the bones of the slain. The inscription, familiar to every Wyoming resident was written by Edward G. Mallery, then sixteen years old, a great grandson of Col. Zebulon Butler:—

“Near this spot was fought
On the afternoon of Friday, the third day of
July, 1778,

THE BATTLE OF WYOMING,

In which a small body of patriotic Americans,
Chiefly the undisciplined, the youthful and the aged,
Spared, by inefficiency, from the distant ranks of
the Republic

Led by Col. Zebulon Butler and Col. Nathan Denison,
With a courage that deserved success
Boldly met and bravely fought
A combined British, Tory and Indian force,
of thrice their number.

Numerical superiority alone gave success to the invader
and wide-spread havoc, desolation and ruin
Marked his savage and bloody footsteps through
the Valley.

THIS MONUMENT

Commemorative of these events
and of the actors in them,
has been erected
over the bones of the slain,

By their descendents and others, who gratefully appreciate
the services and sacrifices of their patriotic ancestors.”

QUEEN
ESTHER'S
ROCK



CHAPTER V



QUEEN ESTHER'S ROCK



QUEEN ESTHER'S ROCK

SOME QUESTION HAS been raised as to the authenticity of Queen Esther's rock on Susquehanna Avenue between Seventh and Eighth Streets. There is much evidence available to prove its authenticity, and also that of Queen Esther herself, whose existence has been questioned by many who are not familiar with the history of the Montour family.

In his address at the Centennial here in 1878, the Hon. Steuben Jenkins said that fifteen out of sixteen white captives, taken by the Indians during the battle and massacre, were ruthlessly slain by Queen Esther with her own hand, at the rock which now bears her name. The one prisoner who escaped was Lebbeus Hammond, who broke away from his captors, and after hiding in the brush, managed to make his way back to Forty Fort.

Mr. Jenkins said "the rock at the time was two feet high on its eastern front, with a surface of four or five feet square, running back to a level with the ground and beneath it at its western extremity."

Steuben Jenkin's grandfather, John Jenkins, afterward colonel of the Luzerne County Militia, was left

in charge of Forty Fort at the time of the battle. He was also in charge of the detail of twenty-five men from Capt. Spalding's company which buried the dead after the massacre. Steuben was nearly eight years old when his grandfather died, and he could easily have remembered what his grandfather told him about the massacre and the rock. He was fifty-four when his own father died who, undoubtedly had much information secured from those who took part in the battle.

Dr. Horace Hollister, a descendent of one of the families who was here during the massacre, in his "History of Lackawanna Valley," published in 1875, in his chapter on general history, tells of his conversation with "the venerable and yet intelligent Mrs. Deborah Bedford, one of the last survivors of the Wyoming massacre," in which he received much first-hand information of the massacre and incidents pertaining to it. He verifies Mr. Jenkin's description of the rock, saying it was two feet high. He also quotes Dr. Peck's "History of Wyoming" as follows: "This celebrated rock is situated east of a direct line between the monument and the site of Fort Wintermute, on the brow of the high steep bank which is supposed to have been the ancient bank of the river. The rock is a boulder and it is a sort of conglomerate, principally quartz."

Anyone who will examine the rock today will find it a conglomerate as described by Dr. Peck. Both Dr. Peck and Dr. Hollister were well qualified as local historians and both had first-hand information from their families who were in the valley during the massacre.

Besides these men there are a number of old persons now living in the valley who have been here for more than fifty years and who know the present stone to have been known as Queen Esther's rock as far back as they can remember. These persons have told the writer of the innumerable number of people who visited the rock and who chipped from it pieces as souvenirs. There were ten thousand persons at the Centennial celebration here in 1878, and nearly all of them visited the

rock. Persons who visited the rock at that time remember the great crowds who hammered pieces from the stone, and carried them away as souvenirs. Dr. Hollister says that at the time he wrote, the rock was much smaller due to the practices of souvenir hunters. His history was published three years before the great crowd was brought here by the Centennial.

The action of souvenir hunters caused much worry to those interested in preserving the rock, and in 1895, Wyoming Valley Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, of Wilkes-Barre took steps to protect it.

The rock and a small plot around on which it was located was purchased by the Chapter from Amos Hughes, owner of the land, and an iron fence placed about the lot and the rock covered with an iron grating to protect it.

Queen Esther, as she is known in history, was the daughter of French Margaret Montour. Margaret's mother was Catherine Montour, or as she is known in Pennsylvania history, Madam Montour. Her home was at Montoursville, near Williamsport. Catherine was the daughter of a Huron Indian woman and a French soldier by the name of Montour. She could not talk English very well, but spoke French fluently. Once she said her father was a French governor of Canada, but never mentioned that her mother was an Indian. Some authorities think she was the daughter of Count Frontenac but this is considered very doubtful.

Queen Esther was only one-eighth white, her father and grandfather both being Indians. She lived at Milan, across the Susquehanna River from Athens, and the exact location of her town there has been known for one hundred and fifty years. When her husband, King Eghohwin, died she assumed command of the tribe which was a small one. From this leadership she was given the name "Queen" by the white people.

Mrs. Whittaker, whose memoirs are in the Wisconsin Historical Society knew Queen Esther personally

and describes her as follows: "Tall, not very fleshy, and not as dark as the usual Indian in complexion. She had the features of a white woman, cheek bones not high, hair black, but soft and fine like a white woman's, not the heavy black hair of a squaw. Her form was erect and commanding, and her appearance and manner agreeable. She walked straight and not bent like a squaw, and she did not turn her toes in when walking" as the Indian does.

Prior to the massacre at Wyoming she was very friendly with the whites and in 1777 aided John Jenkins and James Sutton, scouts for the Wyoming settlers, to escape when they were in danger of being captured by Indians at Tioga Point. The loss of her son at Harding, where he was killed by Zebulon Marcy a few days before the Battle of Wyoming, aroused all her savage instincts and she took her revenge in the Indian manner.



COMMEMORATIONS of the MASSACRE



Chapter VI



COMMEMORATIONS of the MASSACRE

DURING THE ONE hundred and fifty-seven years since the massacre of July 3, 1778, descendents of those who took part in the battle have kept green the memory the sacrifices made by their ancestors on that occasion.

Governors of the State have, on different occasions, visited the hallowed spot, and two presidents of the United States have made journeys to the monument. President Rutherford B. Hayes attended the Centennial here in 1878, and President Theodore Roosevelt came to the monument in 1905, when he visited Wilkes-Barre. President Roosevelt's interest in history is well established by his books. That his knowledge extended to important events of the Revolutionary War is shown by his expressed desire to visit the monument while in the valley.

The greatest gathering at the monument, and probably since its erection, was during the Centennial in 1878, when more than 10,000 persons attended the exercises on July 3 of that year. These thousands came from all parts of the United States, and included many whose ancestors took part in the battle and massacre. Although approximately the same number attended the Sesqui-Centennial here in 1928, the number, consider-

ing the increase in population, was not as large as at the Centennial.

The idea of commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the massacre originated with the Hon. Steuben Jenkins, of Wyoming, whose grandfather Colonel John Jenkins, was left in charge of Forty Fort when the little army went out on the afternoon of July 3, 1778, to meet overwhelming numbers of experienced soldiers, and savage Indians.

The official history of the Centennial shows that the idea was conceived in June 1877, when Mr. Jenkins met Calvin Parsons, of Parsons Borough, on the Court House Square in Wilkes-Barre, and during their conversation the idea of the Centennial was discussed, and they decided to enter upon the preliminary work at once.

Some days later Mr. Jenkins sent out invitations to a number of prominent men of the valley asking them to attend a meeting on July 3, 1877 at the Court House, to consider the matter.

Those who attended this meeting were: The Hon. Steuben Jenkins of Wyoming; Hon. Edmund L. Dana of Wilkes-Barre; Hon. Lazarus D. Shoemaker of Wilkes-Barre; Col. Charles Dorrance of Kingston; Dr. Horace Hollister of Scranton; Priestley R. Johnson of Wilkes-Barre; Calvin Parsons of Parsons and Wesley Johnson of Wilkes-Barre.

At this meeting a committee consisting of lineal descendents of those taking part in the battle, was appointed. The members of this committee were: Hon. Steuben Jenkins of Wyoming; Gen. Edmund L. Dana of Wilkes-Barre; Dr. Horace Hollister of Scranton; Stewart Pearce, Esq. of Wilkes-Barre; Col. Charles Dorrance of Kingston; Hon. Lazarus D. Shoemaker of Wilkes-Barre; Ira Davenport of Plymouth; Jesse Harding of Eaton, Pa.; Col. Frank Stewart, Berwick, Pa.; Capt. Calvin Parsons of Parsons; Dr. Andrew Bedford of Abington, Pa.; Edward Wells, Esq. of Wyalusing, Pa.; Steuben

Butler, Esq. of Wilkes-Barre; William Ross Maffet of Wilkes-Barre; Wesley Johnson of Wilkes-Barre; Hon. Peter Osterhout of Tunkhannock, Pa.; Elisha Blackman, Esq. of Pittston. This committee effected a permanent organization with the following officers: Colonel Charles Dorrance, president; Wesley Johnson, secretary; and Lazarus Denison Shoemaker, treasurer.

The plan adopted called for an all-day celebration at the monument with the President of the United States and Hon. Steuben Jenkins as principal speakers.

The great morning parade began at the site of old Kingston Fort, now known as Forty Fort, following the firing of thirteen guns by the Wyoming Artillerists, the local battery which had become famous for its splendid work in the Mexican War. It might not be out of place here to state that in every war in which this country has been engaged since its founding, Wyoming Valley has sent its quota. In 1776, the little settlement sent two full companies of men to Washington, greatly exceeding its quota; in 1813, the famous Luzerne Volunteer Matross Company, later known as the "Kingston Volunteers" joined Commodore Perry at Lake Erie; during the Mexican War the Wyoming Artillerists represented our military organizations; in the Spanish War the Ninth Volunteer Infantry, volunteered and entered the service of the United States, and in 1917, the same regiment, its name changed to the One Hundred and Ninth Artillery, earned fame in France and Belgium.

On July 3, 1878, the procession left Forty Fort immediately after the salute of thirteen guns, and headed by Cogswell's Band, marched to the Monument at Wyoming. President Hayes arrived on the D. L. & W. Railroad, where he was met by the Scranton City Guards, in their gorgeous dress uniforms, and was escorted to the monument.

Space will not permit a detailed description of the lengthy program of the exercises held at the monument on that occasion. Poems, written especially for the occasion, music and speeches composed the major part

of the program. At noon a recess was taken until one o'clock, when the program was continued. The Hon. Steuben Jenkins gave the historical address, which, to the student of history today, is a mine of accurate information. The principal address in the afternoon was given by President Hayes. The Hon. John Sherman, former United States Senator from Ohio, and at this time Treasurer of the United States also spoke, as did United States Attorney-General Devens, both of whom accompanied President Hayes to the Centennial. Governor John F. Hartranft of Pennsylvania and his family were also at the ceremonies. Addresses were also made by Hon. Edmund L. Dana and the Hon. C. I. A. Chapman and Reverend William P. Abbott.

The following aged persons, descendants of early settlers were in attendance: Steuben Butler, son of Colonel Zebulon Butler, aged 90 years; James Slocum of Brownsville, a nephew of Frances Slocum, the "Lost Sister of Wyoming"; John Breese of Horseheads, N. Y., aged 88 years; Archibald Jenkins, Elmira, N. Y. aged 86 years; John Elliott of Wyalusing, aged 75 years; Jesse Harding of Eaton, aged 76 years; John Fassett of Mehoopany, aged 83 years; James A. Gordon of Plymouth, aged 82 years; Uriah Swetland of Eaton, aged 74 years; Alvan Dana of Missouri, aged 84 years; Elisha Blackman of Pittston, aged 88 years; Mrs. Laura Carey Downing of West Pittston, aged 81 years; Sarah Denison Abbot, daughter of Colonel Nathan Denison, aged 84 years; Mrs May Johnson Foster, Jackson Twp., aged 81 years; Henry Roberts, Falls, aged 86 years; John Breese of Wyoming, aged 83 years; D. Gordon Dorrance, aged 68 years; John Gore of Kingston, aged 83 years.

"The monument was gracefully draped with a spiral wreath of symbolic laurel and oak, from apex to pedestal and a laurel wreath encircled the marble tablet on which is inscribed the names of those slain in the battle," says Wesley Johnson in his "Wyoming." Over the gateway to the monument was a triple archway surmounted by the words:

"E'en from the grave the voice of Freedom cries;
E'en from their ashes live the Sacred fires."

Another arch bore the words: "Our Fathers died that Liberty might live."

On July 4th, a big parade was held in Wilkes-Barre in the morning and in the afternoon a Fourth of July celebration was held on the river common. The Declaration of Independence was read by the Hon. Henry W. Palmer, and addresses were made by President Hayes, Governor Hartranft, the Hon. C. R. Buckalow, the Hon. Wayne McVeagh, H. Armitt Brown, Esq., Hon. A. K. McClure, Hon. Clayton McMichael, and Hon. W. W. Nevin, all men of great prominence in the State at that time.

In looking at the formation of the parade we find there were five divisions. The first division was military in character and among the organizations we find the Scranton City Guard, 250 strong, with a Gatling gun drawn by a pair of gray horses; the McClellan Rifles, from Pittston under Captain Ginley, with a band from Port Griffith, and the Wyoming Artillerists with their four brass six-pound cannon. There was a tribe of Onondaga Indians from New York also in line, in full war costume and marching in Indian file. These Indians were descendents of some of those at the massacre in 1778.

On July 5, a big regatta was held on the river at Wilkes-Barre in which boat crews from New York City; five crews from Philadelphia; one each from Reading, Pa.; Burlington, N. J.; Watkins, N. Y.; and Pittston took part.

THE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL

The one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the battle and massacre was observed by similar programs. Many of those who read this account will remember many of the details of that celebration.

The big celebration was held at the monument on July 3, 1928, and was attended by over 10,000 people

from all parts of the state, and from the States of New York and Connecticut. A pageant, given in Kirby Park, Wilkes-Barre, during the three days of the exercises, was attended by thousands of people. This pageant consisted of scenes from the history of the valley from 1769 when the First Forty settlers came here until Judge Fell succeeded in burning anthracite coal in an open grate in 1808.

Brig. Gen. Edward Martin, auditor general of Pennsylvania was the principle speaker at the monument. Gen. Martin was the personal representative of Governor John Fisher. The United States were represented by F. M. Kirby, special representative of President Calvin Coolidge; the United States Senate by Hon. Hiram Bingham of Connecticut; the House of Representatives by Hon. John J. Casey of Pennsylvania; and Hon. Fred M. Davenport of New York. The State of Connecticut by Hon. George S. Godard, State Librarian and personal representative of Governor John Trumbull. Major General Preston Brown, commander of the First Corps, United States Army, and Brigadier General William S. McLean, Jr. of the Pennsylvania National Guard, represented the armed forces of the country and state.

Seated at one side of the platform was a number of Seneca Indians, descendents of those who took part in the massacre in 1778. Among these Indians were descendents of some of the most famous of the Iroquois. They were as follows: Chief Black Snake, direct descendent of the famous chief of the same name; Chief John Half-Town and Chief Titus, descendents of Cornplanter. Mrs. Fidelia Turke, a sister of Chief Titus and a direct descendent of Mary Jameson.

At Wilkes-Barre, during the sesqui-centennial another body of Indians, descendents of Frances Slocum, had a camp in Kirby Park.

The monument at night, during the ceremonies, was brilliantly illuminated by hundreds of colored lights hung in festoons. Besides these lights great flood lights threw their beams on the imposing shaft.

Every July 3, since 1878, the Wyoming Commemorative Association have conducted memorial exercises at the monument. At these exercises speakers of prominence from various States have delivered historical addresses. Some of these addresses deal with Revolutionary times; others with trends in history. These exercises are always well attended by descendants of the settlers who fought here on July 3, 1778, and by those who are interested in keeping green the memories of those who died here on that terrible day.

This Association, formed in 1878, has the following officers: President, Miss Anne Dorrance, Kingston; Vice-Presidents, Hon. William S. McLean; William A. Wilcox, Frederick G. Johnson, Hendrick E. Paine, Dr. Charles Miner, Col. Dorrance Reynolds, Harry B. Schooley, Ralph Wadhams, Col. L. A. Watres, Harry C. Miller, Abraham Nesbitt, 2nd., Col. Franck G. Darte. Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Emily Wilcox; Corresponding Secretary, Frederick G. Johnson.



SESQUI-CENTENNIAL SIGNS IN WYOMING



Chapter VII



SESQUI-CENTENNIAL SIGNS

THE SIGNS MARKING the holdings of the First Forty who settled in Wyoming in 1769, erected during the Sequi-Centennial were as follows: beginning at First Street, down Wyoming Avenue to Stone Bridge:

At First and Wyoming Avenue: "One of the First Forty, Rudolph Brink Vanorman, one of those arrested by the Pennamites and taken to Easton, convicted of insurrection. Escaped from jail September 24, 1769."

On opposite side of Wyoming Avenue: "One of the First Forty, Stephen Gardner, Jr. Original proprietor of this land."

A little farther down Wyoming Avenue: "One of the First Forty, Benjamin Shoemaker. Father of Lieut. Elijah Shoemaker." (Killed during massacre).

In the Wyoming Cemetery grounds: "One of the First Forty, Job Yale. Was arrested by the Pennamites and taken to jail at Easton, 1769."

Near Sixth Street and Wyoming Avenue: "One of the First Forty, Benjamin Follett. Original proprietor

of this land. Father of Eliphlet Follett, killed in Battle of Wyoming, and of Fred Follett scalped by the Indians near the Sister Elms."

At the First National Bank: "One of the First Forty, Joshua Hall. Original proprietor of this land. Arrested by the Pennamites and taken to jail at Easton, 1769."

Just below Eighth Street: "One of the First Forty, Cyprian Lothrop. Original proprietor of this land. One of those arrested by the Pennamites and taken to Easton jail, 1769."

On the lawn of the State Police barracks: "One of the First Forty, Oliver Smith. Original proprietor of this land. Was arrested by the Pennamites and taken to Easton jail, 1769."

Near the Murdock property: "One of the First Forty, Silas Bingham. Was the original proprietor of this land, Lot 32. He was one of those who laid out Wyoming Avenue."

On the Murdock property, three hundred feet north of the monument and on opposite side of street: "One of the First Forty, Joseph Fink. Original proprietor of this land. Was one of those arrested by the Pennamites and lodged in Easton jail, 1769."

On the property of Harry C. Miller, between Eighth and Ninth Streets, on east side of Wyoming Avenue: "John Perkins settled here in 1772. Came from Plainfield, Connecticut. He was killed by the Indians, Nov. 7, 1778."

A second sign in Wyoming Cemetery read: "Benjamin Carpenter lived on this lot. Fought in the Battle of Wyoming. About 1780, erected a grist mill and later a woolen mill on Abraham's Creek, near the present Shoemaker mill (near corner of West Eighth Street and Shoemaker Avenue). The locality was first known as 'Carpenter's Mills.' This location was afterward bought by the Shoemaker family in whose possession it has been for about 115 years."

Opposite the monument on Wyoming Avenue: "One of the First Forty, Dow Tripp. Original proprietor of this land."

At the Allen home, across from Swetland's store: "One of the First Forty, Thomas Dyer. Original proprietor of this land. Son of Eliphalet Dyer, organizer of the Susquehanna Company."

At the Luke Swetland property: "One of the First Forty, Luke Swetland lived here. August 1778, he was captured by the Indians. Wrote a celebrated account of his captivity. Died, 1823."

On this same property was another sign: "Lebbeus Tubbs, from Lynn, Conn. Served in the French and Indian War. Lieutenant in First Alarm Company, and fought in the Battle of Wyoming."

On the property just across from the airport, and a little above: "One of the First Forty, Samuel Gaylord. Original proprietor of this land. One of those arrested by the Pennamites and confined in Easton jail, 1769."

On the Atherton property directly across from the airport: "Zerubable Jearum. Original proprietor of this land."

On the Garrahan Farm, where the airport is located: "One of the First Forty. Near this spot resided Richard Brockway, Born 1707, died 1807. Here in the last battle of the Yankee-Pennamite War, Oct. 18, 1784, Col. John Franklin of the Yankees, defeated Col. John Armstrong of the Pennamites. During this battle Col. Franklin took his famous oath upon the rifle covered with blood of his friend Philip Jackson."



WYOMING SCHOOLS



CHAPTER VIII



EDGAR M. SANDERS

President
of School Board



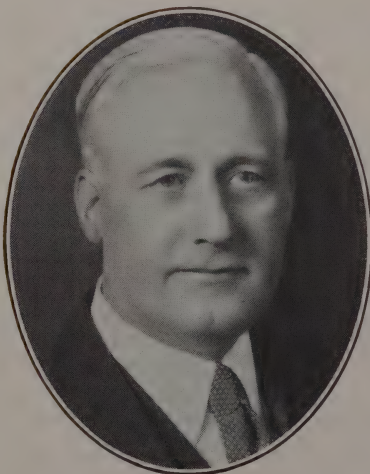
W. T. SCUREMAN

Vice-President
of School Board



EDGAR L. CLARK

Secretary
of School Board





DR. R. H. STROH
Member
of School Board



DR. F. B. KLEINTOB
Treasurer
of School Board

JOHN E. PIATT
Supervising Principal
of Schools





WYOMING SCHOOLS

THE RECORDS OF Kingston Township and Westmoreland Town fail to record the erection of the first school house in Wyoming. It is altogether probable that a school of some kind was held in Wyoming shortly after the First Forty came here in 1769, for seventeen of the Forty took up land, and no doubt many of them made their homes within the present boundaries of the borough. The early records of the township, like many records of municipal bodies of today, failed to make mention of many matters which we now know to have been important. These omissions were due, not so much to the neglect of the secretaries as to the idea that everyone knew of the incidents and therefore it was not necessary to put them on record.

We know that prior to 1801, a school house was erected in Wyoming, for, at the April, 1801, term of Court of Quarter Sessions a petition was presented by Joseph Swetland and others asking for the appointment of viewers for the opening of what is now East Eighth Street. Whether the viewers were appointed we do not know, but the street was not opened. Blair in his Michael Shoemaker Book, quotes the petition in part as follows:

“A road to begin at or near the school house standing on the road leading from Benjamin Carpenter’s (West Eighth Street) to the Main road in Kingston,

and from the said school house on a straight line to the river." Quoting Mr. Blair further, "This school house apparently stood at the corner of the present Eighth Street and Wyoming Avenue, until 1813 or 1814, when Lot Breese moved it to the 'School House Lot,'" now a part of the property of the James Tonrey estate on Wyoming Avenue opposite the theatre. Blair also says that Mrs. Parthena (Atherton) Gordon and Chester W. Tuttle taught in this school house. This school house stood on Wyoming Avenue for about fifty years when it was sold at auction to Payne Pettebone who moved to West Sixth Street where it formed a substantial unit of a dwelling made from it. It remained in use as a dwelling until 1900 when it was sold, with the land, to the Wyoming Cemetery Association. It was torn down in 1916, when the lot was made a part of the cemetery.

Whether the "Little Red School House" was in West Wyoming as early as the school here, is not known. The first mention that Blair found of a school house there was in the Day Book of Jacob I. Shoemaker, Sr., dated March 14, 1820. Blair believes that this school house may have been of logs, and that the "Little Red School House" was built later. This is indicated by a lease from Samuel Shoemaker, dated February 2, 1828 to John Johnston "in trust for school purposes for a contemplated school district to be formed in the Upper School District of Kingston Township. This school district was later known as Number Four District." "The Little Red School House" was painted white in later years, and remained white until it was destroyed by an oak tree falling on it some six or seven years ago.

In 1805, in the Kingston Township records show the proprietors, as the settlers were known, passed a resolution dividing the township into four school districts. The First District began at the Exeter Township line and extended to the Swetland home at the lower end of Wyoming. This resolution also provided for the payment of the teacher's salary and specified a school term of nine months. It is worthy of note that the length of the school term in Wyoming has remained at nine months for one hundred and thirty years. William Brewster, in his "History of Certified Kingston Township" says that "It is highly creditable to those Kingston farmers that they provided for a nine months term of school, nearly thirty years before the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania extended its bounty to its children



WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL



by the establishment of the common school system in 1843."

The late Calvin Hess, who attended the school in West Wyoming in 1867, told the writer that the school house was twenty feet wide and twenty-four feet long. He said the furnishings of the school house were of a very primitive kind. There were no seats and desks for the scholars as in present day school buildings. Instead on each side of the room, running the whole length of the building, was a long sloping wood desk, the back fastened to the wall of the building, and sloping toward the center of the room. In front of this desk was an equally long bench, without back, on which the scholars sat side by side. At the end of the school room opposite the entrance door was a platform on which stood the teacher's desk. In the center of the room a big pot-bellied stove, burning wood, served to keep the building warm in winter.

In 1867, the number of pupils attending the school was so large that a second row of desks and benches was provided, the additional furniture being placed in front of the old, and were used by the smaller children.

Squire Hess gave a list of the children, as far as he could remember, who attended the school with him in 1867. The list follows: William Hartzell, Helen Hartzell, Edward Alling, Eva Alling, Almeda Lord, Clarence Halsey and brother, Henrietta Davidson, Teeny Davidson, Jacob Smith, Adam Smith, Kate Smith, Emma Coleman, George Coleman, Charles Coleman, Olive Van Tyle, Emma and Stella Goodwin, Vint Breese, Stella Breese, William Tripp, Marcy Tripp, Lizzie Tripp, Charles and Harry Racket, Payne Shaffer, Charles and Louis Breymeier, William Cruickshank, Jennie Cruickshank, Fanny Schooley, Libbie Bilby, Kate Bilby, James Smith, Annie Smith, Josephine Thompson, Jane Thompson, Etta Hoover, Virgie Hoover and John Hall.

Three County Superintendents of Schools in Luzerne County taught in what was later to become the Wyoming School District. All three taught in the "Little Red School House" and were: Abel Marcy, elected County Superintendent in 1860, and again in 1863; Horace Armstrong, elected 1866 and in 1869; and Frank P. Hopper, who served continuously from 1899 to his retirement in 1926.

The little school house which stood on Wyoming Avenue, mentioned previously, was more modern in its furnishings than the one in West Wyoming, according to Vinton L. Breese, who attended this school in 1868, when Chester Tuttle was the teacher. The desks were double and were made by fastening two boards together so that the joined sides were higher than the outsides, thus making the desk slope away from the center making two desks. Each desk would accommodate four scholars, two on one side facing the two on the other. The scholars sat on benches and the desks were arranged in rows and aisles like the desks in the schools of today.

Among those who attended this school in 1868, Mr. Breese can remember: Charles Crouse, James Jenkins, James M. Schooley, Thomas Hunlock and William Higgins. This school house was used as a polling place for this voting district of Kingston Township. The voting was done through one of the windows, the door being left open for the use of spectators. The teacher's desk was placed inside the window, and the election board grouped around it. When the vote was handed in it was placed in the ballot box by one of the election officials.

Schools were conducted in other places as well as in school houses. In April, 1864, William Swetland was granted permission to fit up the basement of the Methodist Episcopal church as a school room. That school was conducted in this place is evidenced that in 1865 Gilbert Wolf was employed as teacher for this room.

The records of the Luzerne Presbytenial Institute, now a part of the property of the Wyoming Presbyterian Church, show that the management received an offer of \$200 per year from Kingston Township as rent for the Institute for school purposes and that the offer was accepted. The records do not show how many years the Township used the Institute building for school purposes, but the late Miss Mary Reeve told the writer that she could remember its being so used for many years. She, herself, and her sister, conducted a private school in the Institute for fifteen years, after the Presbytery had discontinued using the building for a seminary.

The oldest school building in Wyoming, excepting the Institute, is the Butler Street building, erected in 1877. The West Eighth Street building in West Wyoming,

was erected in 1889, while West Wyoming was still a part of Wyoming Borough.

The first school directors elected in Wyoming Borough were: James Fowler, James E. Sanders, J. V. Baker, R. H. Weir. This election took place in 1886. The Supervising Principals of Wyoming since the incorporation of the borough in 1885 were: H. L. Morgan, 1886-90; J. Frank Smith, 1901; W. A. Sanford, Sept. to Dec. 1891; A. F. Kraut, 1891-2; G. M. Wilner, 1892-4; W. H. Hench, 1894-7; Charles W. Herman, 1897-1900; W. R. Williams, 1900; James Shaw, 1909-12; Asa Lewis, 1912-15; R. G. Jolly, June to November, 1915; John E. Piatt, November, 1915 to the present time. Mr. Piatt began his service as a teacher in Wyoming in 1912, and taught three years before being elected supervising principal. His term of service has been longer than any other supervising principal, completing his twentieth year with the close of the school term this year.

The first class to graduate from Wyoming schools was in 1887, and was composed of two girls, Elizabeth A. Smallcomb, now Mrs. John J. Closterman of Forty Fort; and Clara Robbins, later Mrs. George Solomon, now deceased. These graduates were from the grade schools, the High School not being established until 1895, when the Eighth Street School Building was erected.

The first teachers, five in number, after the incorporation of the borough were: H. L. Morgan, supervising principal, Miss Rose Lott, Miss Nellie W. Osborne, Miss Barabra Hoffer, and Miss Ida Turnbach. Thomas Raynor's name also appears on the payroll for a few months, evidently as a substitute teacher. The following year the number of teachers was increased to six. Besides Mr. Morgan the following were employed: Miss Rose Lott, Miss Mary E. Buckley, Miss Myrtle Yost, Miss Ida Turnbach, and Miss Fanny Wilson. These teachers taught in the Butler Street building, and the "Little Red School House" in West Wyoming.

The first graduates of Wyoming High School cannot be learned due to the records being lost. The present High School building was erected in 1914, and was dedicated on Labor Day of that year. The principal speaker was Martin G. Brumbaugh, later governor, whose dedication address was the opening speech in his campaign for governor. The building cost \$45,000. The auditorium and gymnasium were added to the



WYOMING GRADE SCHOOL, (Eighth Street)



WYOMING GRADE SCHOOL, (Butler Street)

building in 1923 at a cost of \$65,000. The dedication address was made by Simeon D. Fess, United States Senator from Ohio. Honorable Lorenzo D. Thomas, then pastor of the Wyoming Baptist Church, and Representative from the Sixth Legislative District of Pennsylvania also spoke.

The new High School building had hardly been completed before it was found necessary to provide more room for the rapidly increasing number of children, and a portable building of two rooms was added to the number of rooms in use. Two additional portable buildings, of two rooms each, have since been added, and additional room is still badly needed.

Realizing that it was only a question of time before a larger High School building would be needed, in 1928 the Wyoming Board of Education took advantage of an opportunity and purchased six acres of land for the sum of \$40,000, on which to erect this new building, and provide an athletic field for school purposes as required now by the State authorities. The board was able to make this purchase and pay for it in cash without borrowing, by reason of its forward looking members, who had accumulated the sum over a period of years.

The present school directors of Wyoming School District, with the year in which they were first elected, and the offices they hold at this time are: President, Edgar M. Sanders, 1927; Vice-President, William T. Scureman, 1925; Secretary, Edgar A. Clark, 1923; Treasurer, Dr. F. B. Kleintob, 1925; Dr. R. H. Stroh, 1933.

The present teaching staff of Wyoming Schools, with the year they first entered service in the district, are: John E. Piatt, Supervising Principal, 1912; High School: Robert U. Nyhart, Margaret Baldauski, 1921; Walter S. Rygiel, 1925; Theodore Keene, 1926; Edgar Dickert, 1928; Kently R. Jones, Jr., 1929; Henry Carichner, 1929; Grace Keener, 1930; Irma Anselmi, 1930. Grades: Fanny Kitchen, 1899; Emma York, 1909; Grace Newton, Marion Stem, 1912; Jennie Morris, 1916; Mrs. Joyce Evans, Irene Hooper, 1918; Geraldine Hall, 1923; Aldone Baldauski, Edith Brace, 1924; Helen J. Cruickshank, Isabel Lowson, Mary Ann Fetch, 1925; Ruth Brown, Ethyl Jones, 1926; Ellen Oates, 1927; Iris Spencer, Helen F. Cruickshank, 1928; Sarah Francis, 1929; Grace Pyne, 1931; Marion McKeehan, Annie Smith, Veronica Belarski, 1934; Art, Talitha Conrad,

1912; Music, D. H. Lewis, 1929; Janitors, Verne DeWolf, 1918; Robert Fenner, 1923, John Kinney, 1924. Secretary to Supervising Principal, Lillian Buxton, 1930.

The following have served as school directors since the incorporation of the borough with the date of their first election: James Fowler, James E. Saunders, J. V. Baker, R. H. Weir, 1886; W. S. Stites, E. S. Hays, J. F. Nuss, 1887; Calvin Hess, Jacob Stevens, N. H. Minninger, 1888; C. P. Knapp, K. J. Kelly, 1890; George Space, 1891; John Hutchins, John Hunlock, 1892; Charles Wilner, 1893; Wm. S. Jacobs, W. J. Fowler, 1894; D. D. Durland, 1895; J. A. Hopper, 1896; O. B. Stevens, H. T. Gregory, 1897; H. Jones, 1898; Harry J. Saunders, 1899; G. F. Townend, 1900; William T. Hutchins, James Genery, 1901; Samuel Gingell, James J. Tonrey, N. Rapson, 1905; John Keller, Robert Stiff, 1906; J. E. Myers, Thomas Reidy, 1907; K. R. Jones, A. B. Smith, Arthur H. Chestworth, G. E. Reynolds, 1913; Emma DeWitt, 1915; John Ridgley, 1917; Charles W. Thomas, George F. Goode, 1921; Edgar Clark, Mrs. Henrietta Hays, 1923; William T. Scureman, F. B. Kleintob, 1925; Edgar M. Sanders, 1927; Robert H. Stroh, 1933.



HISTORIC
WYOMING
INSTITUTE



CHAPTER IX



WYOMING INSTITUTE, ERECTED 1848



HISTORIC WYOMING INSTITUTE

IN 1846, THE PRESBYTERIAN Church of Wyoming founded a parochial school in which were taught religious subjects and common school branches. This school was held in a house on the lot where the Methodist Episcopal Church now stands. In September of that same year, the Luzerne Presbytery, now a part of the Lackawanna Presbytery decided to found an institute or seminary for the teaching of all branches of education from the primary grades to the study of languages and the classics. This Institute took over the parochial school and conducted sessions in the same building where the parochial school had been conducted.

The following trustees were appointed at the Fall meeting of Presbytery: Rev. John Dorrance, Rev. A. H. Hand, Rev. E. H. Snowdon, Rev. T. P. Hunt, Rev. J. D. Mitchell, Rev. A. Heberton, Rev. George Pintz, Rev. R. Webster, Rev. A. G. Harned, Rev. J. G. Moore, Rev. N. G. Parke, Rev. W. W. Bonnell, Rev. D. Cook, and the following laymen; C. D. Shoemaker, Ziba Hoyt, J. G. Fell, John Bennett, Henry Hice, James Jenkins, T. F. Atherton, A. I. McClintock, William Swetland, G. M. Hollenback, Thomas Myers, J. E. Barnes, E. Weston and John Ruddle.

At a meeting on December 28, 1846, the trustees decided to erect a brick building at a cost of not less than \$3,000, the building to have a commodious lecture room. A plan for the building was submitted to the trustees January 11, 1847, by J. G. Fell. This plan was adopted and the building was erected from these plans. The two wings to the present building were erected in 1927.

At a meeting, held May 11, 1847, Rev. Luther Halsey, D. D. was chosen president of the new Institute. Although the minutes of the trustees do not state when the first sessions of the Institute were held, the late Miss Mary Reeve told the writer that sessions were held shortly after Dr. Halsey had received his appointment, the sessions being held in the parochial school building.

The minutes are also silent as to when the building was built but the late Samuel Lily stated that he helped burn the bricks in 1847, and that the building was completed in 1848. The tablet over the entrance reads "Luzerne Presbyterial Institute, A. D. 1848." The brick for the building was burned in the old brick yard on the Murdock farm, now covered by the coal storage plant of the D. L. & W. Coal Company. The stone trimmings were from stone found in this vicinity and all the woodwork came from the forest around Wyoming.

The plans of the trustees provided for a number of other buildings but none were ever built. A boarding house was erected by T. F. Atherton, at the corner of Wyoming Avenue now owned by George Esgar.

The Institute was conducted for a number of years, but the records fail to show how many. There is one entry in the Institute records indicating that the number of pupils was one hundred. The Institute did not pay expenses and in 1868 at a meeting of the trustees it was decided to dispose of the building to the Kingston Township commissioners for school purposes. Nothing came of this motion however.

The building was transferred to the Lackawanna Presbytery in 1870, when the Luzerne Presbytery and

the Montrose Presbytery were combined into the Lackawanna Presbytery.

The building remained in the hands of the Lackawanna Presbytery until 1913 when the Presbytery authorized the trustees to transfer the building and land to the Wyoming Presbyterian Church for church purposes. This was done November 14, 1913, and the building has since been the property of the local church.

In April, 1927, the local church decided to remodel the building for Sunday School, and other purposes. Plans for the alterations were drawn by Thomas F. Atherton. These plans provided for wings at the sides of the building and also a rearrangement of rooms inside.

The minutes of the trustees show that during the period between the close of the Institute and its transfer to the Wyoming Church the building was used by Kingston Township for school purposes and also by Wyoming Borough School District. The late Miss Mary Reeve conducted a private school in the building for fifteen years. Miss Reeve was a graduate of the Institute. Many of the older residents of the borough attended sessions in the Institute during its existance and others attended sessions of the public schools and Miss Reeve's private school.





WYOMING CHURCHES



CHAPTER X



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(Inset) REV. ROY H. SINCLAIR, Pastor



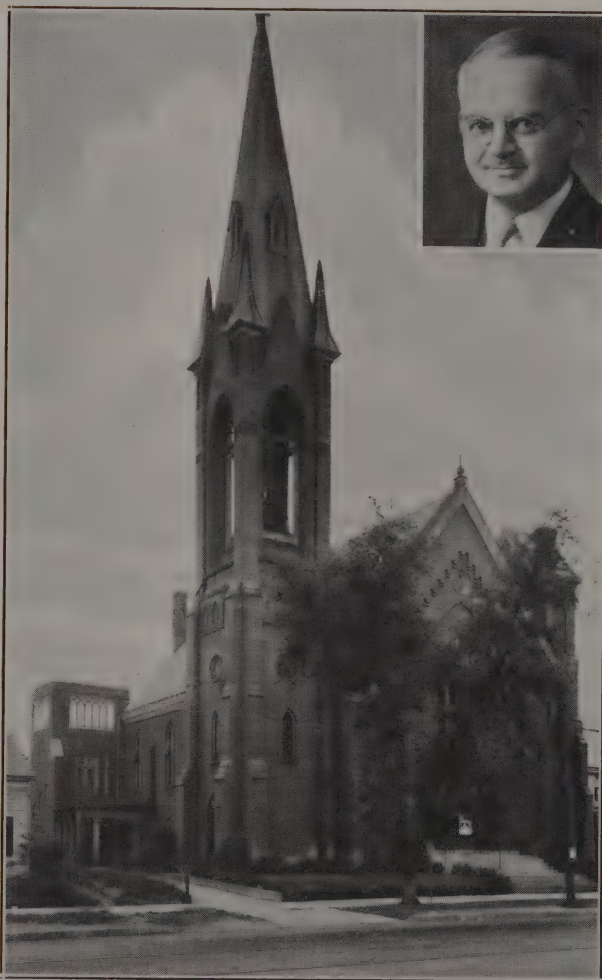
WYOMING CHURCHES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE FIRST CHURCH building erected in Wyoming, and the first Presbyterian Church in Kingston Township, was a little frame building, erected about 1833, on the lot, now a part of the Wyoming Cemetery, given by Jacob I. Shoemaker as a burial plot. There is a well defined tradition, according to Blair, that the lot was presented to the Presbyterians by Mrs. Shoemaker, wife of J. I. Shoemaker. The records show that the sum of \$50 was paid to Mr. Shoemaker for 2,400 square feet of land. Rev. Alexander Heberton, who was assistant pastor to Rev. John Dorrance, then pastor of the Wilkes-Barre Presbyterian Church, and of the Old Meeting House at Forty Fort, in 1832 to 1834, was the builder and pastor of the Wyoming Church.

Services were held in the church until 1854, when the building was badly damaged by lightning, and services were then held in the Institute. The damaged church building was sold to Rufus Carver who moved it and after remodelling used it for his home.

The present Presbyterian Church was organized from the Presbyterian congregation at Kingston, in May, 1847. The first ruling elders were Henry Hice, Charles Fuller, R. E. Marvin, and Lewis G. Ensign. The first pastor was Rev. J. Delville Mitchell who had been pastor of the Kingston Presbyterian Church. Mr. Mitchell served until 1849, and was instrumental in the founding of the Presbyterian Institute.



THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(Inset) REV. GEORGE G. SUMMERSON, Pastor.

A parochial school was founded by this church in November 22, 1847, with F. P. Smith as teacher. This parochial school was later consolidated with the Presbyterian Institute.

In 1850, David Perkins and his daughter, Jane Ann Carpenter, donated to the church trustees the parsonage lot on which the manse now stands. The manse was erected that same year and was occupied for the first time on November 27, 1850, by Rev. Paul Eugene Stevenson and family. Mr. Stevenson had become pastor of the church on May 19, of the same year.

In 1854, the members of the Presbyterian Church resolved to build the brick church, still used by the congregation. The lot on which the church stands was conveyed to the trustees of the church by John and Jerusha Breese for a consideration of \$1,000, the deed calling for one acre of land. This lot was, according to the deed, along the northern line of "Institute Avenue." The coal was reserved by the Breese family.

The pastors of the church have been: Rev. J. Delville Mitchell, 1847; Rev. Paul Eugene Stevenson, 1850; Rev. N. S. Prime, (supply) 1854; Rev. Thomas P. Hunt, (supply) 1854; Rev. J. D. Mitchell, 1855; Rev. T. P. Hunt, (supply) 1856; Rev. M. L. Moore, 1857; Rev. LaRue King, (supply) 1858; Rev. H. Henry Rinker, 1859; Rev. H. H. Wells, (supply) 1861; Rev. W. Scott Stites, 1873; Rev. N. J. Rubinkam (supply) 1877; Rev. George Wells Ely, 1878; Rev. W. Scott Stites, (supply) 1887; Rev. H. H. Wells, 1887; Rev. John W. Kilburn, (supply) 1888; Rev. W. A. Beecher, 1890; Rev. E. Scott Stites, 1894; Rev. L. H. Watkins, 1901; Rev. J. B. Umberger, 1905; Rev. Ferdinand Von Krug, D. D., (supply) 1909; Rev. LeRoy L. Daniel, 1910; Rev. F. Von Krug, D. D., (supply) 1913; Rev. Robert McKee, 1914; Rev. Fred G. Bulgin, (supply for Mr. McKee during War) Rev. Stanley R. Evans, 1921; Rev. Roy H. Sinclair, 1925.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Anning Owen was the founder of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Wyoming Valley. He began his work in the vicinity of Wyoming in 1790. In 1793, services were being held regularly in two places in Wyoming. The first of these services were held in the home of Philip Jackson, near where the Monument

now stands, and the other at the home of John Rosen-
crans, later owned by Captain John Brees.

Prior to 1841, services in Wyoming were held at the homes of the people. In 1840, the Christian Church had begun the erection of a chapel but becoming involved in financial difficulties did not complete it. The property was sold to Ezra Brees, John Goodwin, Philo Bowers, George N. Peck and John K. Jenkins, as trustees for the Methodist Episcopal congregation. In 1842, James Jenkins sold a piece of land to the congregation. In 1850, the property of the church consisted of two lots on Wyoming Avenue with a frontage of 125 feet, on which were the finished chapel, the parsonage and the sexton's house. The sexton's house stood where the brick building of I. Kluger now stands, next to William T. Scureman's funeral home. The church property including the church, the parsonage and sexton's house were sold, in 1882, to William Hancock for \$4,900. The church building now forms a part of the Marino Theatre.

The Wyoming Methodist Episcopal Church, under the name of The New Troy Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was granted a charter by the Court on April 11, 1853.

On January 31, 1882, Payne and Catherine Pettebone executed a deed to the Wyoming Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church for two lots on Wyoming Avenue, one having a frontage of 150 feet, and a depth of 165 feet; the other a frontage of 150 feet, and a depth of 102 feet. The coal had been reserved by William Shoemaker in a previous deed to Amos F. Barnum. The consideration was \$4,300.

The old Barnum house, which stood on the lots when the property was sold by Payne Pettebone and his wife, is now the sexton's house. The present parsonage was built in 1883, by Rozelle Brothers at an approximate cost of \$9,000. Upon the larger of the two lots, purchased in January by the Society, Mrs. Catherine Swetland, widow of William Swetland; her daughter, Mrs. Catherine Pettebone, and the latter's husband Payne Pettebone, built the brick church now occupied by the congregation at a cost of approximately \$25,000. The Sunday School room was added by Mrs. Kate Pettebone Dickson, daughter of Payne and Catherine Pettebone, in 1925 at a cost of approximately \$50,000.

The bell was presented by Mrs. Frank Pearne Brownscomb, of Wilkes-Barre and Mrs. Alice Van Scoy, Kingston, as a memorial to their parents Isaac C. and Catherine Ann Shoemaker. The bell cost \$593.

The church was dedicated Wednesday, July 18, 1883, by the Rev. Thomas H. Pearne, D. D., who had been a preacher on the Wyoming Circuit, and for the church, in 1847. He conducted a great revival in Wyoming in that year during which William Swetland and Payne Pettebone joined the church.

The preachers of the church have been Thomas H. Pearne, 1847; Bostwick Hawley, 1848; C. H. Geddings, 1849; Barlow Weed Gorham, 1850; Dr. Reuben Nelson, (supply) 1852; L. D. Tryon, 1852; George W. Peck, 1854; Anthony H. Shoemaker, 1856; Oliver Lewis, (supply), Henry Brownscomb, 1857; Asa Brooke, 1859; William J. Judd, 1860; Leonard Cole and Byron Sturdevant, 1862; John LaBar, 1864; Henry Wheeler, 1866; Asa J. Van Cleft, 1867; Solomon W. Weiss, 1870; Robert W. Van Schoick, 1874; John C. Laycock, 1874; Fred L. Miller, 1877; James C. Shelland, 1880; Dr. Youngs C. Smith, 1883; Moses D. Fuller, 1886; Gideon C. Lyman, 1890; Wilson Treible, 1895; Stephen Jay, 1900; William T. Blair, 1902; Charles Henry Newing, 1910; John Bradshaw, 1912; Harry Kelly, 1916; Joshua Brundle, 1920; George G. Summerson, 1929.

BAPTIST CHURCH

According to information given by Mrs. Hazen Norton, now of Belvidere, N. J., the first meetings of the Baptist people of Wyoming, preceding the organization of the Wyoming Baptist Church, were held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ebenezer Lloyd, who, in the spring of 1885, lived at 176 Wyoming Avenue. Mr. Lloyd was a licensed (or local) minister and he preached each Sunday or else brought in a minister from another town.

The first public meeting was held in a room on the second floor of the building on West Eighth Street now used by Root's Transfer. Later meetings were held over the old post office at 19 East Eighth Street.

The first members of the Baptist Church were: Mr. and Mrs. Ebenezer Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Hazen Norton, Mr. and Mrs.



THE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Inset) REV. GEORGE FREEMAN HAINES, Pastor.

Robert Smallcomb, John Lloyd, Mrs. Eleanor Crouse, Mrs. Hannah Phillips. Mrs. Phillips is now the only one of this group who still lives in Wyoming. Mrs. Norton lives in Belvidere, N. J., and Mrs. Lloyd in Masontown, Pa.

The first Sunday School class was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hazen Norton, in the property now occupied and owned by Maurice Shaffer, at the corner of Monument Avenue and Seventh Street. This was in the spring of 1885. Mr. Norton taught a boys' class. On the class roll were: Harry Stocker, Thomas Davidson, Joseph Chesworth, Owen Lloyd, Harry Miles, Edward Stocker and Gershom LaFrance, Mr. Stocker and Mr. LaFrance are still residents of Wyoming.

The girls' class was taught by Mrs. Norton, and on the roll were: Lillie Smallcomb, Jennie Smallcomb, Mary Hopper, Margaret Lloyd, now Mrs. F. J. Reynolds of Wyoming Avenue; Mary Lloyd, now Mrs. L. G. Wildoner of West Pittston; and Mary Phillips, now Mrs. Thomas Thomas of Wyoming. The first church organist was Elizabeth Ann Jeffery, now Mrs. Elizabeth Oates of Monument Avenue.

The church was organized December 16, 1892, the first church building having been built early that summer on a lot on Butler Street, donated by Denton Durland. In 1894, it was moved to the present location at the corner of East Seventh Street and Monument Avenue.

The foundation of the present church was used for a number of years, being fitted up for church services. A gift of \$15,000 from the Levi Shoemaker Estate of Wilkes-Barre, for the erection of a new edifice on the foundation, during the pastorate of Rev. L. D. Thomas, brought about the building of the fine new brick edifice used by the congregation. The bell of this church was presented by the Honorable P. F. Joyce of Pittston, and the organ was given by Henry German of Wilkes-Barre.

The first pastor of the church was the Rev. M. H. Mentzer, and the first clerk was Thomas Noble. Daniel Harris, Thomas Reidy and Mr. Fenwick were the first deacons. After serving one year Mr. Mentzer resigned in December, 1894, and Rev. R. C. H. Catheral of Berwick, supplied the pulpit until September, 1895, when Mr. Mentzer again became pastor. He served only a short time before again resigning.



ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC POLISH CHURCH
(Inset) REV. JOSEPH J. LOSIENIECKI, Pastor.

For some months Rev. J. S. Thomas of Nanticoke, and Rev. Mr. Morris of Duryea, supplied the pulpit until Rev. H. A. Payne assumed the pastorate on February 1, 1896. Then followed Rev. R. R. Thompson, 1899; Rev. D. E. Stewart, serving for a short time only; Rev. E. C. Murphy, 1900; Rev. Mr. Brewster, 1904; Rev. O. W. Cook, 1906; Rev. C. M. Jones, supply after the resignation of Mr. Cook in 1912; Rev. L. D. Thomas, 1913; and Rev. George Freeman Haines, 1929.

During the pastorate of Mr. Brewster, the parsonage lot was purchased and the parsonage was built in 1907.

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC POLISH CHURCH

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Polish Church was organized January 1, 1914, Rev. Ceilaus Duzynski, pastor of St. Mary's R. C. Church, of Swoyersville, now deceased, was the first priest in charge of the parish, administering to the spiritual wants and needs of the Polish speaking people of Wyoming. He was in charge of the parish from January 1, 1914 to November of the same year.

Rev. Narcisus Sosnowski was the first resident pastor being in charge from December 8, 1914 to September 19, 1915.

Rev. Dominik Tomkiewicz was the next pastor of St. Joseph's, coming here on October 3, 1915, and remaining until February 20, 1916.

Rev. Narcisus Sosnowski returned to St. Joseph's Church on February 27, 1916, and continued here until March 14, 1917.

Rev. Anthony Dudkiewicz, deceased, served from March 14, 1917 until August 15, 1919.

Rev. Joseph Losieniecki, the present pastor came here August 15, 1919, and has served until the present time. Under Father Losieniecki's spiritual direction the parish has prospered spiritually and temporally due to his painstaking and persevering labors.

The contract for building the basement, which has been fitted for church uses, was signed May 8, 1914.

This contractor's work was not satisfactory, and the contract was re-let to Turon and Schwartz who completed the work. The first contract was signed on the part of the congregation of St. Joseph's by Rev. Ceilaus Duzynski, Paul Kozkodau, vice-president; Frank SONDY, secretary; John Goryl, treasurer. The second contract by Rev. Narcisus Sosnowski, John Knozkowski, Frank SONDY, Adam Gramacki, George Krolik, George Stypulkowski, John Jurek, and Anthony Dombrowski.

The present trustees and members of the church committee are: Rev. Joseph Losieniecki, president; Leon Rygiel, secretary; Thomas Motyczka; Paul Palo, Valentine Woynerowski, and Ladislaus Czuba.

There are fourteen societies connected with the church as follows: The Holy Name Society, with 153 members, comprising the young men and boys of the parish. St. Joseph's Holy Name Baseball club are members of this society, and the club is a member of the Anthracite League; St. Vincent de Paul Society; Unit of Catholic Council of Woman; Sodality of the Blessed Virgin; Third Order of St. Francis; Propagation of Faith Society; St. Joseph's Society; Society of the Immaculate Conception; St. Stanislaus Society, affiliated with the Polish Catholic Union of North America; Two groups of Polish Women, one group in Wyoming and the other in West Wyoming; Society of Our Lady of Czestochoma; Sacred Heart and Holy Rosary Society; Society of Our Lady of Perpetual Help; and the Mutual Aid Society.



WYOMING CEMETERIES



CHAPTER XI



WYOMING CEMETERIES

MRS. ELIZABETH (Bennett) Polen, born in 1812, wrote a sketch for Johnston's Historical Record, about a cemetery that, for a number of years, existed at what is now the corner of Wyoming Avenue and West Eighth Street. There is some dispute about the exact location of this cemetery but the most reliable information places it along the southern side of West Eighth Street back of the present Schooley property. Blair believes it to have been a long narrow strip of land running along the line of present West Eighth Street in the vicinity of the Reynolds property, formerly the "Sons of Temperance Hall," still standing just west of Atherton Avenue.

At the time of the serious mine cave of the Mt. Lookout colliery in March 1897, two skulls were found near the sidewalk line at this point, which supports the contention of Mr. Blair.

Mrs. Polen's story was to the effect that after the massacre of Wyoming, relatives of some of those killed gathered up their bodies and buried them in a little plot along the lane which then led to what is now West Wyoming. The plot is thought to have contained about one-eighth of an acre of land. The plot was used as a

burying ground until 1800, when Thomas Bennett gave a plot of ground to Forty Fort Cemetery. After the establishment of Forty Fort Cemetery this little cemetery was abandoned and the bodies were removed by relatives and buried in other places.

For a number of years this cemetery has been known as the Oemig Cemetery, but there seems to be no authority for the name as Christian Oemig, who had his store on Wyoming Avenue near where the cemetery was, did not move to Wyoming until 1815.

The present Wyoming Cemetery was established in 1838, when Jacob I. Shoemaker, Sr., the first of his name here, set aside a portion of his lot as a burial place, at the time of the death of his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Shoemaker. The original plot had a frontage on Wyoming Avenue of 100 feet and a depth of 215 feet.

Wyoming Cemetery was incorporated June 30, 1864, with the following trustees named in the articles of incorporation: Isaac C. Shoemaker, son of J. I. Shoemaker who gave the original plot, Jesse B. Schooley, Thomas Hutchins, Steuben Jenkins, William S. Shoemaker and John Breese. At the meeting of the trustees in April 1866, the following officers were elected: President, Isaac C. Shoemaker; Secretary, John Breese; Treasurer, Thomas Hutchins.

The present trustees are: Miss Mary E. Polen, Miss Gertrude Shoemaker, K. R. Jones, Sr., F. S. Durland, Johnson V. Baker, Dr. A. B. Smith. The officers are: President, Miss Mary E. Polen; Secretary, K. R. Jones, Sr.; Treasurer, F. S. Durland.





WYOMING
FREE LIBRARY



CHAPTER XII



WYOMING FREE LIBRARY

ONE OF THE MOST valuable institutions in Wyoming is the Wyoming Free Library located in the heart of the business district of the town.

The library was organized and is supported through the efforts of the Wyoming Woman's Club, formerly the Civic League of Wyoming. This society which celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its founding in May of this year, was organized for the purpose of fostering and supporting community interests.

In its work funds were needed and the club resorted to rummage sales as one source of income. When holding these sales the ladies found a great demand for books and reading matter, and from this demand grew the idea of a public free library.

The library was established August 8, 1927, with but little more than courage and determination as a nucleus. The women set to work and from their efforts has grown the Wyoming Public Library.

The late Mrs. Kate Pettebone Dickson, donated the use of the building next to the Methodist Episcopal Church to house the library. The continued use of this building has since the death of her mother, been donated by Mrs. Franck G. Darte. The first floor of the building is used by the library, the different rooms being set apart for different uses. The front part is used for a general reading room and for the office of

the librarian. The two rear rooms house the valuable Archibald H. Law Memorial Library, presented by Mrs. Archibald H. Law of Scranton. The library, which contains many valuable books was the private library of the late Mr. Law and Mrs. Law, wishing to place it where it would be of most service and its value appreciated, presented it to the Wyoming Public Library.

After securing the use of the building the ladies set about redecorating the rooms and fitting them with proper shelves for the books. Much of the material and work was donated by members of the club and friends of the project. Books have been given by people of the community, and by friends of the members of the club. The financial support of the library has been carried by the Woman's Club, with some assistance from the Wyoming Rotary Club, and the Business Club of Wyoming. The members of the Woman's Club are looking forward to the day when the municipal government will lend its financial support in carrying on this great work.

The growth of the library from a few books to approximately five thousand volumes in seven years, shows the great interest the public has in this fine institution. The only lack that the library experiences is sufficient funds to buy new books to replace those worn out, and to occasionally purchase books of recent issue.

A committee of the Woman's Club has active supervision of the work of the library, and they are assisted by Miss Mildred Carlstrom, librarian.

That the library is doing a valuable work is evidenced by the great circulation of books during the year 1934, when 10,000 books were taken out by residents of the town. This remarkable record was made with the library being open only on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and evenings. When finances will permit the library to be open every week day during the year it is easy to imagine that the circulation will be immeasurably increased.





TROOP "B"
PENNSYLVANIA
STATE POLICE



CHAPTER XIII



WILLIAM D. PLUMMER
Lieutenant

TROOP "B" BARRACKS
PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

WILLIAM A. CLARK
Captain



TROOP "B"

PENNSYLVANIA

STATE POLICE

TROOP "B" STATE Police has been identified with Wyoming for nearly thirty years, and has become in the opinion of the citizens of the borough almost a local institution.

The Troop was organized and mustered into the service of the State on December 15, 1905, by an act of the legislature passed in May 1905.

As no provision had been made for the quartering of the men or horses, the members of the Troop, when reporting for duty, boarded with various private families and at hotels in South Wilkes-Barre, while the department was looking around for a suitable location and building, for Troop Headquarters. After negotiating for several buildings in different places in Luzerne County, it was decided to take what was known as the "Hancock Mansion" in Wyoming, which was leased by the department and made ready for occupancy. After the building was completed and stables built the Troop moved from South Wilkes-Barre to Wyoming on April 1, 1906.

Captain Frank D. Beary commanded the Troop from the date of organization until February 10, 1906, when he resigned and later was appointed Adjutant

General of the State of Pennsylvania. Captain Whit Page succeeded Captain Beary in the command of Troop "B". Other captains of the Troop since it came to Wyoming have been Captain Joseph F. Robinson, Captain Leon Pitcher, Captain William C. Price, now Commandant of the State Highway Patrol; Captain Herbert Smith, now warden of the Eastern Penitentiary at Philadelphia; Captain Elmer Leithiser and Captain William A. Clark. Major Lynn G. Adams, Superintendent of the Pennsylvania State Police, served a short time in 1909 as lieutenant of Troop "B".

Troop "B", when organized, consisted of two officers and thirty-five enlisted men. The original act erecting the State Police provided for 221 officers and men which were divided into four troops. Later the number was increased to 421 officers and men divided into five troops and an additional School Troop located at Hershey.

When the act erecting the State Police was passed in May, 1905, the late Colonel John C. Groome was appointed superintendent and given authority to organize the body on such lines as he thought best.

Colonel Groome visited European countries and studied their police methods and organizations. He found that the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Royal Northwest Mounted Police of Canada—the latter modelled after the Royal Irish Constabulary—most nearly approximated what he had in mind for this state. As a result of his study he incorporated the best features of both the Royal Northwestern Mounted Police of Canada and the Royal Irish Constabulary into the organization of the Pennsylvania State Police.

He inaugurated the policy that the personnel must be made up of the very best material available; that promotion should be by merit, and that all operations must be conducted fairly, efficiently and impartially. He announced to his officers that he expected honor, courtesy, truth, precision and thoroughness to be listed among the virtues of the Force, individually and col-

lectively. This policy of Colonel Groome has since been the standard of the Force.

The Pennsylvania State Police was the first of its kind in the United States, although Texas and Arizona had Ranger forces years before the local organization was organized, but the work and ideals of the Rangers differ materially from that of the State Police. So well has the State Police of Pennsylvania met the ideals of State government that eleven other states have adopted similar organizations after studying the methods and organization of the Pennsylvania State Police and seven other states have adopted Highway Patrols based on the work of the State Police of this state.

Troop "B" has always been considered one of the leading Troops in the State, and because of the peculiar social conditions existing in the territory of the Troop, it has always been one of the first companies to be studied by other States when forming similar police organizations.

When the force was first organized thirty-five years ago the men were provided with horses for patrol work. Their duties carried them through the country sections and along the State Highways. Although Troop "B" is provided with a number of automobiles for emergency work, the horses are still retained for patrol work. The Troop has in its stable here twenty-eight horses, all black as coal, and the parade detail of the Troop makes a splendid spectacle when mounted on these horses. When automobile traffic became heavy Troop "B" was provided with a number of motorcycles for the details assigned to traffic work. These motorcycles were abandoned when the State Highway Patrol took up traffic control some twelve years ago.

From thirty-five men and two officers Troop "B" has grown to eighty men and two officers. The barracks at Wyoming has accommodations for the full number of men of the Troop, but seldom is the full number at headquarters due to the many men at sub-stations through the territory of the Northeastern District.

Troop "B" is comprised of a Captain, a Lieutenant, six Sergeants, ten Corporals, and sixty-five privates, a total of eighty-three men and officers. It polices the northeastern part of the State, its district comprising the following counties: Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Pike, Potter, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, Wyoming.

Sub-stations, with from three to six men, are located in nine of these counties as follows: Bloomsburg, Columbia County; Galeton, Potter County; Hazleton, Luzerne County; Honesdale, Wayne County; Milford, Pike County; New Milford, Susquehanna County; Peckville, Lackawanna County; Stroudsburg, Monroe County; and Towanda, Bradford County. All these sub-stations are connected with Troop Headquarters at Wyoming by the Tele-Typewriter System. This system also reaches the police headquarters of all cities of the state. Besides the Tele-Typewriter System Troop "B" has a radio broadcasting station at the barracks.

By the use of the Tele-Typewriter System Captain Clark can, within a few minutes, get in touch with the State Police and city police forces of the following states: New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Delaware, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and all parts of Pennsylvania. By radio they can reach the Michigan State Police, and by the use of radio and the Tele-Typewriter System can send messages to the Pacific coast, or any other part of the country, in a very short time.

The Pennsylvania State Police co-operates with and assists the following agencies in the investigation of crime: All Departments of the Federal Government. All Departments of the State Government. The different County authorities of the State. All local authorities. It also investigates crime in the rural sections of the State where there is no organized police force.

Troop "B" like all other troops has its own Criminal Investigation Department. Several rooms in the basement of the barracks are fitted up for this work. Photo-

graphic apparatus for photographing criminals; cameras and other apparatus for photographing and recording fingerprints, and information about criminals wanted for various crimes throughout the country are on file here. Immense file cases, filled with the records of criminals, are arranged around the walls of the rooms, each carefully indexed and cross-indexed so that within five minutes a wanted man's entire criminal record, photograph and finger prints can be found and laid before the proper authorities. Troop "B's" files contain the records of 8000 criminals arrested and wanted by the State Police.

When a man is arrested for a crime his photograph is taken, his finger prints classified on cards, and his record carefully compiled for the local files; a second copy is sent to the Pennsylvania State Police Headquarters at Harrisburg and another to the Department of Justice of the United States at Washington, D. C.

A Bureau of Fire Prevention is also a part of the work of Troop "B". Two men, and sometimes more, are assigned to investigate all fires which appear to be of incendiary origin.

Troop "B" is commanded by Captain William A. Clark. Captain Clark is one of the very few men who have been members of the State Police since its organization. He was appointed a member of the Pennsylvania State Police, December 15, 1905. He was promoted through the various grades of the service, until May, 1918; when he became a captain. At that time he was appointed captain of Troop "D" at Butler. Two years later, in May, 1920, he was transferred to Troop "B" where he has since remained. During his service here he has earned, not only an enviable record of as an efficient police officer, but the respect of the community for his activities in all civic projects for the betterment of conditions in Greater Pittston.

Lieutenant William D. Plummer, Inspection Officer of Troop "B" is also a long-time member of the State

Police. He was appointed to the State Police in October, 1910, and promoted through the various grades until October, 1925, when he was appointed Lieutenant and assigned to Troop "C" at Reading. After serving five years in this troop he was transferred to Troop "B" in April, 1930, where his record as an efficient officer has been continued.

The officers and men of Troop "B" are: Captain, William A. Clark; Lieutenant, William D. Plummer; Sergeants, C. S. Cook, N. E. Annich, T. H. Enoch, J. H. Miller, H. T. Newman. Corporals, I. Brauch, J. A. Carr, R. C. Frick, J. E. Hess, R. W. Knight, J. A. Piorkowski, S. S. Smith, J. F. Santilla, C. D. Santee, C. E. Stewart.

Privates, E. E. Barr, W. M. Brown, J. F. Bonfanti, F. M. Barry, W. A. Bader, G. W. Boyer, L. W. Bohr, C. A. Brand, D. Banghart, J. J. Broski, C. A. Connolly, F. J. Carey, J. W. Coates, M. B. Davis, J. K. Dula, F. M. Duffy, E. S. Dixon, H. B. Daubenspeck, T. E. Eshelman, C. D. Eisenhower, W. G. Fink, C. D. Green, L. A. Garvey, S. A. Gabrysh, D. K. Green, E. L. Garman, C. Hartman, R. H. Jones, A. V. Jones, H. W. Kisner, H. W. Klinger, W. M. Keible, J. Koval, B. K. Lee, J. R. Leshner, C. K. Minnich, J. I. McIlvaine, F. H. McCartney, L. W. McChesney, R. W. Musser, W. V. Murphy, J. S. Mulligan, L. G. Metz, R. R. Nielson, C. H. Neville, G. R. Naugle, L. R. Pope, H. E. Paul, P. C. Ryan, W. A. Reed, M. C. Ryan, C. C. Reigel, F. W. Supadar, W. W. Singer, R. E. Soule, S. C. Spotts, K. N. Tissue, D. K. Unger, K. W. Werts, E. J. Wilson.



EARLY
INDUSTRIES



CHAPTER XIV



EARLY INDUSTRIES

THE EARLY EXIST-
ance of Wyoming was probably due to the exceptionally fine water power along Abraham's Creek. How early mills existed along the creek is not known, but Blair believes saw and grist mills may have existed prior to 1798. The earliest fulling mill, according to Blair, was built in 1798, by Jacob Bedford, along Abraham's Creek in the gorge, known now more generally as "The Hollow". The latter became a part of the Shoemaker Woolen Mills.

In 1813, Samuel Shoemaker and William Swetland started a woolen mill taking water from Abraham's Creek. Later Swetland retired and Shoemaker continued the mill. Part of this old mill building is believed to form a part of the buildings still standing on the Shoemaker property along Shoemaker Avenue, West Wyoming.

In 1791, John Rosenkrans sold to Gilbert Carpenter a plot of ground along Abraham's Creek. The deed covered not only the ground but also conveyed water rights and "all and singular the mills, etc." indicating that mills were standing on the property. This piece of land and these mills later became part of the property known as the Carpenter Mills, and gave that name to what is now West Wyoming. In 1808, Isaac C. Shoemaker bought the mills from Carpenter, and the section took the name of Shoemaker's Mills, by which name it was known until the section became known as New Troy, and later as Wyoming. These mills have remained in the Shoemaker family since they were purchased in 1808. In later years they were operated and became

known as the James Fowler & Son mills, and now as the G. & M. mills.

Other mills and saw mills, at various times, were established along the Creek, and were so numerous that we cannot mention them here. Several tanneries were also established in different times, as well as hatteries, and foundries.

In 1830, Ezra Breese and Jonathan Moore established a foundry on West Eighth Street, and two years later Breese sold his interest to Moores. Moores enlarged his plant and began making his own pig iron. Breese later manufactured plows at his home. In 1848, the Moores foundry having passed through several ownerships, began making engines and pumps, and coal mining machinery. This work was continued only a few years and the plant was closed and torn down. No remains of this plant now exist.

The Wyoming Shovel and Edge Tool Company, later known as the Wyoming Shovel Works, was organized and chartered in 1874. The directors of this concern included the most important men of the community. They were Payne Pettebone, George M. Richart, William S. Shoemaker, Steuben Jenkins, James Patterson, Thomas Hutchins, James D. Green, William Allen, and John Sharpes. The officers were: President, Payne Pettebone; Secretary, Steuben Jenkins; Treasurer, J. I. Shoemaker.

This concern, at one time the largest of its kind in the world, did a world-wide business, sending thousands of shovels to the diamond mines of South Africa. During the World War it originated and sold to the Allies the trench shovel, now a part of the regular equipment of the armies of the world.

The financial disturbance following the market crash of 1929, made it necessary for the company to consolidate with several other similar companies, and all that now remains here of this concern is the handle-making department, the metal plant and assembling department being at Larkersburg, West Virginia.



JAMES BIRD
of WYOMING



CHAPTER XV



JAMES BIRD of WYOMING

ONE OF THE MOST dramatic stories in the history of Wyoming is that of the heroism and tragic death of James Bird, whose home was on West Eighth Street.

John Bird, father of the martyr, came here from Somerville, N. J., after serving three and one-half years in the New Jersey troops during the Revolutionary War. He purchased four acres of land, two on each side of what is now West Eighth Street, near where the West Wyoming Borough building now stands. He was the father of five sons and six daughters, of whom James, born December 20, 1785, was the eldest.

The thrilling and tragic story of James Bird is told in part in many local histories and in Lossing's History of the War of 1812. In 1871, General Samuel Thomas of Ohio, who before his removal to that state had attained the rank of General in the militia of Pennsylvania, and who was commander of the Kingston Volunteers, of which Bird was a member, told in detail what he knew of Bird's story. We shall attempt to give the story briefly and yet with sufficient detail so that the present generation may become familiar with one of the most interesting characters that ever lived in Wyoming.

When Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, on March 27, 1813, assumed command of the force of shipwrights

who were building the fleet at Erie which later was to become famous, he found that the only protection the men had from the British were infantry of the Pennsylvania State Militia. These he knew would be unable to afford sufficient protection in case the English fleet should descend upon them for the destruction of the partially completed boats. So he sent a request to Governor Simon Snyder of Pennsylvania asking that a good battery of artillery be sent him at once. There was in 1812 and 1813 a battery of artillery in Kingston Township that ranked high by military standards. This organization was known as the Luzerne Volunteer Matross Company, with its members drawn from the Township between Plymouth and Pittston. This company was under the command of Captain Samuel Thomas, and comprised ninety-four young men. This company, later known as the "Kingston Volunteers," had their meeting place and drill ground at Kingston Corners.

When the call came from Perry, Governor Snyder, at once, ordered the Luzerne Matross Company to leave for Erie. Only about thirty of the men of the company were at home, the others being about their employment, many as raftsmen and rivermen. On April 14, 1813, Captain Thomas assembled his little body of men and marched them to the river where a raft with their cannon was awaiting them. They embarked and the raft started down the river. A group of curious young men and boys followed along the west bank of the river, keeping abreast of the raft until Plymouth was reached. Here the raft was poled ashore to pick up the contingent from that section.

Captain Thomas found one of his men absent and after waiting a reasonable time went ashore to look up the delinquent. When he arrived at the home of the man, whose name is said to have been Moyer, he found the artilleryman in uniform, with his wife and half-fed children clinging to him and sobbing bitterly. When Thomas entered the squalid home Mrs. Moyer threw herself on her knees before him and begged that her husband be permitted to remain at home. She said that he was the only support of the family and they would starve if he was taken away. Thomas, naturally good-hearted, hesitated between his pity and his duty. Meanwhile the curious group that had followed the raft from Kingston gathered about the door and gazed upon the pitiful scene. While Thomas was hesitating between his military duty and his compassion for the family,

a strapping young man stepped from the group, tapped Moyer on the shoulder and said "Take off your uniform coat, I'll go in your place." The young man was James Bird, whose fame was later to become nation-wide. Moyer allowed Bird to slip the coat from his shoulders and Thomas having a substitute for his man, accepted Bird and the Matross resumed its journey.

The raft landed at Danville and the Matross journeyed across the country to Lewistown and from there proceeded northward. On their way they recruited men until when they arrived at Erie on April 30, they had their full complement of ninety-four men. The company took their position along the inlet to the harbor and afforded adequate protection to the fleet under construction. At the cannonading of Presque Harbor by the British fleet, the Matross Company did valiant service, firing many shells into the British vessels and doing much damage.

The ships were finally completed and Commodore Perry called for volunteers to serve as gunners. James Bird, Benjamin Hall, William Pace and Godfrey Bowman, all gunners of the Matross Company offered their services and they were assigned to the Niagara.

On September 10, 1813, Perry's fleet set out to meet the English. At noon they sighted the enemy and the battle began.

All of Perry's vessels were armed with cannon of short range while the English were equipped with guns of longer range placing Perry's fleet at a disadvantage. As the result, Perry's flagship, the Lawrence, was almost a wreck before they could get within gunshot of the enemy. Helpless and out of the fight, Perry saw the Niagara only a short distance away and undamaged. He transferred his flag to the Niagara and assumed the offensive. The Niagara bore down on the center of the enemy's line, holding its fire at the command of Perry, until they were within easy striking distance. The first gun fired from the Niagara was aimed by James Bird, the shot striking the mainmast of the Detroit, the flagship of the English fleet. The mainmast was cut in two and fell, disabling the Detroit. But the return fire from the British was so fierce that it swept almost every American from the Niagara's deck. The last cleaning sponge for the cannon of the Niagara was carried overboard and Benjamin Hall jumped after it. He recovered the broken handle and swam back to his

ship. Bowman was wounded and Bird was hit on the shoulder by a ball, falling to the deck by his gun. He was picked up and rushed below to the surgeons, but before they could bandage his wound, Bird broke from them and rushed back to his position on deck. The surgeons followed and when Bird refused to go below, bandaged his wound as he fought his gun. Perry ordered him below, but Bird refused to go and remained at his post fighting his gun throughout the rest of the battle. The deadly fire of the American fleet soon brought about the surrender of the English. Lossing in his "History of the War of 1812", mentions Bird's bravery and tradition says that when Perry returned to the Lawrence to receive the surrender of Captain Barclay, commander of the English fleet, he took Bird with him and Bird stood at his side when the surrender took place.

Bird's bravery during the battle caused Perry to transfer him from the Matross to the Marine Corps on the Niagara. After the battle of Lake Erie, the Matross was sent to Detroit, and the English being driven from the lakes they returned to Kingston November, 1813. Bird, however, remained with the fleet. He wrote few letters home. One of these, for years in the possession of the late Lewis Durland, of West Eighth Street, whose mother was a niece of James Bird, is now in the possession of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society. The paper of this letter retains its whiteness and the writing, fine as copper-plate engraving, is still legible. This letter, written nearly a year after the battle, has never before been published. It is here reproduced with the original spelling and odd capitalization of the period.

Erie June the 3d 1814.

Dear Parents I Rite these few lines to Inform you that I Am in Good Health At Present hoping these few Lines May find you Enjoying the same I Received your Letters With the Greatest of Pleasure you Wanted me to Rite to Let you Know how the warr Comes on But I Cant Rite nothing very Entertaining But Last Sunday wee went over to Long Point and Burnt a Small town by the name of Dover with five Large Stores four Grist Mills two Fulling Mills and two Saw Mills and A Number of fine housens Without Any opposition from the Ennemy. We have a few Barrels of flower and whiskey But All of no Great Amount wee was fired upon By three Soldiers Wich Some of our Men Returned and wounded one of

them and the other two Gave themselves up as Prisoners. I have the Pleasure to Rite you that I Am well of My wound that I Received In the actionn with Commodore Perry on the Tenth of September Last and I am on Duty Again But My Duty is not hard for I Am Promoted As A officer and I think Myself Happy in My Station I expect to Pull out on Another expedition In three or fore days for there is Preparations Making for that purpose I Do Expect that wee Shall Go up into Lake Huron and if wee Do I Shant Get Back again until next winter I want you to Rite to me As Soon as you Can for I want to hear from you All. I want you to Call on Capt Samuel Thomas for Money Due Me for My Service under him In the Melitia which Is About Seventeen or Eighteen Dollars I Gav him an order to Collect It and to Give It to you I Do Expect to Receive Some Money Soon and I want to know how you Come on In Paying for your home and Lot wether you are like to Get through with it. (Here follows a list of money due him from various persons in Wyoming) I have Nothing In Particular More to Rite to you But Still Remain your Most Affectionate Son Until Death.

James Bird
Mr

To

John Bird
Kingston Luzerne County
State of Pennsylvania.

In this letter he mentions that he had been promoted to be an officer. The position was that of ensign, not now in use in the Marines, but in authority corresponding to that of a third lieutenant.

Just nineteen days after the writing of this letter James Bird was arrested in Pittsburgh on a charge of desertion. Historians express wonder at his action and various reasons have been assigned for it. Some believe that the dull routine of navy life proved too much for his active disposition; others suggest other possible reasons, but there is a tradition in the family, many of whom are still living in Wyoming Valley, that James Bird left his post and returned to Wyoming because of a letter he received from his sweetheart. This tradition says he was here for more than a week before leaving to return to Lake Erie. On his way back he met a number of other deserters at Pittsburgh who were on their way to join General Andrew Jackson who was preparing to fight the British in what was to prove the fiercest land battle of the war.

Bird and ten others were arrested on June 22, 1814, and taken back to Erie where they faced a court martial of militia officers. It is doubtful that such a court had jurisdiction over Bird but he pleaded guilty to the charge of desertion and was condemned to death. President Madison approved the sentence on October 22.

Before the time set for carrying out this sentence Bird asked the commanding officer at Erie to stay the execution until a message could reach Commodore Perry at Detroit. A friend of Bird's set out with the message and reached Perry, who according to tradition left at once for Erie. Before he arrived the sentence of death had been carried out, the commanding officer having refused to postpone the execution until word could be received from Perry. This officer later shot himself. Various reasons have been suggested for his suicide but outside of tradition there is nothing to account for his act.

Sitting alone in his narrow cell on the Niagara the night before his execution, his ankles shackled to ball and chains, by the dim light of a tallow candle, Bird wrote his farewell letter home. This letter, now in tatters, the ink faded and illegible, was published, so far as known, only once. That was in 1846, when Charles Miner, the historian of Wyoming Valley, composed a song, and published the letter, the song and a sketch of Bird's life, on a broadside for public sale.

This is a remarkable letter in some ways. He shows no regret at his action; he blames no one, he offers no excuses; he does not dwell on the fact that he is to die. His only concern is that his parents and brothers and sisters shall know that his conscience is clear and he begs them to so live that they shall meet him in the Hereafter.

The letter in part follows:

November 4, 1814.

Dear Parents:

I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you which will bring sad news; but do not lament nor make sad groans for the loss of your first, beloved and dearest son, James.

Dear Parents, brothers and sisters, friend and relatives I do write to you a most sad and dismal letter, such as never before came from my hand, nor yet from any of your beloved children, dear parents, I often have sat down and written a few lines with pleasure, but I am sorry at present to let you know my sad and deplorable situation—I am the oldest child of the family.

Dear parents, let my brothers and sisters read this letter—the last they can ever receive from my hand—for the laws of our country run so that I am doomed and sentenced to death.

And Oh, loving parents my time is short here on earth; I have but a few moments to make my peace with my Maker. I leave you only for a short time here on earth, this most troublesome world—but I hope that my constant prayer we soon shall meet in the world above, where we shall part no more.

Dear parents, brothers and sisters, friends and relatives make the best use of your time; for it is but a short time that you have to stay on earth; therefore make your peace with God, lest you be called away from this world unfit to meet your judge on that great day in which we all must appear before the bar of justice, there to answer for all our sins, and more than we shall be able to answer for. The Lord giveth and he alone can take away. How probable it may seem that I have brought myself to an untimely end, yet I hope the Lord will say Thou hast come, and I will receive you at the eleventh hour and you shall receive full wages. My dear beloved parents do not grieve to think of my departure for I shall only leave you for a short time. The Lord be with your here below for blessed is he that liveth in the Lord.

So no more at present; but I remain your most affectionate and beloved son, until death.

So, amen, this from me.

James Bird.

Mr. John Bird, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.
Blessed are they who hold out to the end.

The next morning, as the sun rose over the eastern shores of Lake Erie, James Bird, kneeling on his coffin

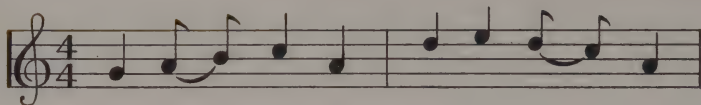
on the deck of the Niagara, was shot to death. He was taken ashore and buried and some years ago a monument was raised over his grave.

The execution of James Bird aroused the whole country on account of the way the court martial had been conducted and the brutality of his execution and as a result the laws governing military trials and executions were greatly modified. Under present day laws James Bird might have been sent to prison for many years but not to his death for the offence of which he was guilty.

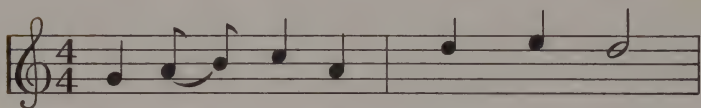
The song written by Charles Miner in 1846, referred to previously in this article, consisted of twenty-four verses of four lines each. Space will not permit quoting the entire song, but some of the verses are given here for those who may wish to know the kind of songs which were popular nearly a hundred years ago. This song was sung in the camps of the Civil War by the soldiers from the North. The tune is an old Scotch dirge known as "The Dour Black Watch." For years the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society tried to get the music but without success. Finally they found an old veteran of the Civil War who used to sing the song in camp. He knew no music but he could play the violin by air. An experienced musician watched the fingering of the old violinist transcribing the notes as they were played and this copy is now in the possession of the Historical Society.



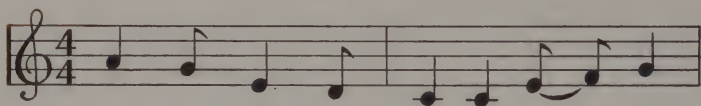
JAMES BIRD



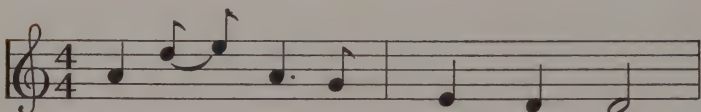
Sons of Free - dom list - en to me



And ye daugh-ters too give ear



You a sad and mourn ful sto - ry



as was ev er told shāll hear

Sons of Freedom listen to me
And ye daughters too, give ear.
You a sad and mournful story
As was ever told shall hear.

Soon they came where noble Perry
Had assembled all his fleet
There the gallant Bird enlisted
Hoping soon the foe to meet.

Hull, you know, his troops surrendered
And defenceless left the West
Then our forces quick assembled
The invaders to resist.

Aye—behold him there with Perry
In the safe same ship they fight
Though his messmates fall around him
Nothing can his soul affright.

Among the troops that marched to Erie
Were the Kingston Volunteers;
Captain Thomas then commanded,
To protect our west frontiers.

But behold a ball has struck him
See, the crimson current flow;
“Leave the deck,” exclaimed brave Perry
“No” cried Bird, “I will not go.”

But there’s one among the number
Tall and graceful in his mien,
Firm his step, his look undaunted
Ne’re a nobler youth was seen.

“Here on deck I took my station,
Ne’re will Bird his colors fly
I will stick to you, gallant captain
’Till we conquer or we die.”

Still he fought, though faint and bleeding
’Till our stars and stripes arose;
Victory having crowned our efforts
All triumphant o’er our foes.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY



CHAPTER XVI



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

THE CELEBRATION of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Incorporation of Wyoming was planned at a joint meeting of the Borough Council and the Wyoming Borough Board of Education at a meeting held in Town Hall on October 8, 1934, when the following were appointed members of the General Committee: Council, Joseph Ostroski, Karl Eckert, George F. Hileman. School Board, Dr. F. B. Kleintob, Edgar L. Clarke, William Scureman.

The General Committee organized with the following officers: Chairman, Burgess John Masel; Secretary, Bernard Piorkowski, Treasurer, Dr. F. B. Kleintob.

Weekly meetings were held and the members of the committee were appointed chairmen of the various sub-committees.

It was decided to hold the celebration from July 1 to July 6, inclusive. Among the different features of the celebration was a pageant, an outline of which follows this sketch.

The Rotary Club of Wyoming arranged to provide a marker for Wyoming Avenue and Fourth Street, marking the left flank of the little American force which marched out July 3, 1778, to meet the overwhelming combined forces of the English and Indians. This marker will be dedicated on the afternoon of July 1, so as not to conflict with the Annual Commemorative Exercises at the Monument on July 3.

Signs were posted at the entrances to the borough announcing the time of the celebration and inviting visitors to stop and spend some time in Wyoming.

The pageant and fireworks were held on the new High School grounds, along the high bank near the river.

The week's program follows:

July 1—Rotary Day, with dedication of marker at Fourth Street.

July 2—American Legion Day.

July 3—Fraternal Organization Day.

July 4—Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.

July 5—Childrens' Day.

July 6—Firemens' Day.

The pageant was given on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 1, 2 and 3.

The official script of the Pageant, written from this history, forms the succeeding chapter.



PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED CONTINUOUSLY IN WYOMING FOR FIFTY YEARS

Atherton, Margaret LaBar
Anderson, Sarah
Bainbridge, Joshua
Bainbridge, Mrs. Joshua
Baldwin, Emma
Canouse, Arthur
Cruikshank, Edward
Cruikshank, Millie
Chapin, Mary A.
Chapin, William R.
*Dailey, George N.
Dailey, Harriett Louise Bennett
DeWolfe, Verne A.
Drane, William, Jr.
Eicke, Fanny Townend
Foss, Margaret Laubaugh
Greggs, Tillie
Givens, Emma Goode
Glatz, Mayme
Goode, Harry
Goode, Thomas W.
Goode, Elizabeth Garney
Garney, Edward
Harsh, Henrietta Sutton
Hess, James
Hess, Isaac
Hartman, John, Sr.
Hartman, Mrs. John
Hopper, Fred
Hutchins, Gertrude Laycock
Jones, Mae Hess
Johnson, Martha
Johnson, Thomas
Kearns, Carol Space
Kellar, Martin
Kingsbury, Sue Parrish
Kitchen, Fanny L.
LaFrance, Gershom
LaFrance, Charlotte Weir
Laycock, Emma
Lowson, John

Marcy, Frank
Marcy, Sarah Parr
McGovern, Mary Kelly
Miller, Sarah Perkins
Oates, Elizabeth Jeffery
Parsons, Elizabeth
Perry, William D.
Phillips, Hannah
Polen, Mary E.
Rinker, Thomas
Reynolds, Frank
Reynolds, Mary
Reynolds, Lizzie
Reynolds, Agatha
Saunders, Harry
Saunders, Arthur
Saunders, Jesse
Saunders, Morton E.
Sax, Pluma Alpaugh
Sax, Ray
Scureman, Mercy Townend
*Shafer, Martha Townend
Shafer, Morris
Shulde, Martha Gingell
Shulde, Robert
Shoemaker, Gertrude Tripp
Sickler, Phoebe Totten
Stocker, Ida J. Hartzell
Stocker, Edward
Schooley, Jesse Steele
Schooley, Mrs. James
Smith, Anna Hancock
Toten, Amos
Townend, James C.
Townend, Lula Sperling
Townend, Dooley
Thomas, Mary Phillip
Willard, Mrs. Francis
Wallace, Bess Rhoades
Yetter, Mary

*Have Lived in Wyoming 75 Years or Over

HISTORICAL PAGEANT



CHAPTER XVII



AN HISTORICAL PAGEANT of WYOMING BOROUGH, PENNA.

Prologue

THE ROLLING OF drums and the sound of trumpets herald the arrival of Miss Wyoming Borough, Queen of the Pageant, preceded by the Guard of Honor and followed by her attendants.

Miss Wyoming Borough welcomes those who have gathered to witness the Pageant.

Address of welcome: (Miss Wyoming Borough)—“Fellow Citizens of Wyoming Borough and of the United States; in the name of the inhabitants of this goodly community and in honor of our celebration this evening, I bid you all a most cordial welcome. Whether you were born within its ancient boundaries, interlacing your affections with those with whom you compose this incorporated brotherhood, in the great Family of the Nation; or whether you have forsaken your home in some foreign country, renouncing all allegiance unto it, and having adopted this as your earthly home, here to abide as one of its children, seeking its welfare and its peace as long as God in His Providence shall continue you here; or whether you are a native of some other town, city, or state, and are present to enjoy with us this celebration; in the name of the Borough of Wyoming, I extend to each and every one of you this endearing address of Fellow Citizens and bid you welcome to Wyoming.”

Miss Columbia then arrives, followed by the States. Miss Columbia is presented to the Queen, the States in attendance near the entrance through which they come.

"Welcome, Columbia, welcome; and you fair United States, her daughters, Welcome to Wyoming Borough and to this Fiftieth Anniversary Pageant."

Miss Columbia:—"Miss Wyoming Borough, in the name of the United States, I acknowledge this, your welcome. With pride we recognize in Wyoming, one of the brightest gems in our crown of American Achievement and Progress. We are happy tonight to receive your welcome to this gathering in remembrance and honor of those worthy men and courageous women who here began a march of Progress, the direction of which has ever been Forward. May Forward be your watchword—and your goal, Perfection."

The Queen, with Miss Columbia, followed by the Guard of Honor, the Attendants and the States, form a majestic processional to the Court of Honor from where, in their splendor, they view the Pageant as it is unfolded.

INTERLUDE

Narrator

"I came, I know not whence,
I go, I know not whither;
Eye of things created, never upon my coming looked—
Nor shall it see my passing.
First and last of all things, I—for I am Time.
Look ye upon the Dawning of Creation—called Universe.
When out of the Chaos, order is brought—
You will see the birth of Sky, Land and Flowers
And last—Man, the Red Man."

Epoch One

THE BEGINNING

"In the beginning, God created the Heaven and the Earth."—*Genesis* I—1.

Out of the shadows, dryads come—and dance in happy and joyous abandon—Sky, Land and Flowers—in the Dawn of Creation.

This scene is symbolical, representing the Spirits of Nature at play—and will take form in a colorful ballet.

Epoch Two

THE INDIAN

The beautiful valley in which the Borough of Wyoming is located was the scene of considerable activity in Indian history. It is generally agreed that the first Indians to occupy the valley were the Susquehannocks, or Conastogas or Andastes, as they were variously known. They were a giant tribe, and very warlike. Although they numbered much less than the Iroquois, it took this latter Indian nation twenty years to conquer them.

After conquering the Susquehannocks, the Iroquois invited the Nanticokes from Maryland to settle here. They occupied the lower end of the valley and gave their name to the town which is now situated there. The Nanticokes remained here only a short time. They moved west to Ohio. The Shawanese followed the Nanticokes into the valley and still later followed them to Ohio. Still later the Delawares secured permission from the Iroquois to occupy the valley. All of the towns, mountains and streams which have Indian names in this section secured them from the Delawares.

After the Delawares settled here the Moravian missionaries, who had their headquarters in what is now Bethlehem, Pa., brought a number of Mohegan Indians (Mohicans) from New York state and settled them in Wyoming Valley. Among these was a Chief who was the first Indian baptised by the Moravians. He was given the name of Abraham because of this. One of his villages was located on a creek which flows through Wyoming. This stream still bears the name of Abraham's Creek. The name "Wyoming" is Indian in origin, meaning "Great Plains."

The curtain will part on young braves concluding their Sun Dance; their bodies shiny with the sweat of their exertion. When the dance is finished some drop, exhausted; others leave the scene. Squaws busy themselves around the fires tending great pots in which food is cooking. Papooses play nearby. Some of the younger boys bring in a log which they start hewing, preparing to make a canoe.

INTERLUDE

Narrator

"And so they came into this land,
Adventures bold on every hand,
The early founders of our race,
The men who took the Red Man's place."

Epoch Three

DUTCH EXPLORERS

Champlain in his history of French Discoveries in America, mentions three "Flemish Traders" who passed through this valley in 1614. In The Hague, in the "Holland Documents" is a story of three Dutchmen who passed through here in the same year. Undoubtedly they were the same men Champlain referred to. Included in the "Holland Documents" is a map drawn by one Hendrickson in 1614, which contains a notation "Route of Kleyenites" who is believed to be the leader of the party of three. The map is that of the Susquehanna River from Athens to Nescopeck.

We shall depict a typical camp scene of the explorers.

INTERLUDE

Narrator

"The Powers of the Forest—and the Powers of the River
Which menaced them always
Had to be conquered and bent to their will;
With danger encircling by day and by night—
Here lit their hearth fires, to gleam through the years
Clear as a beacon light."

Epoch Four

(a)—Dance of the Wilderness Spirit

A symbolic ballet representing the Spirit of the Wilderness in its most playful mood, with the Powers of the Forest, Powers of the River and the Mist Maidens dancing in the unexplored Wilderness.

(b)—Conquering the Barriers

A symbolical portrayal of the heroic advancement

of the Pioneer Manhood and Pioneer Womanhood of America in the face of obstacles and the opposing forces of Nature. The forest, harboring many lurking dangers, had to be cleared away. Floods from the rivers had to be subdued. Mists from the swamp lands brought on Fever, and following closely came Famine, with Death itself stalking always in the shadows. Yet the advancement went steadily forward and the struggles of early manhood and womanhood in America have been crowned and the noble triumphs reflected in the Wyoming of today.

Epoch Five

FIRST SETTLERS

The first white settlers in the valley are believed to have been sent here by the Pennsylvania Proprietors because Captain Ogden had built a fort in the valley before the arrival of the Connecticut settlers in 1769. The "First Forty," however, as the group of settlers of the Connecticut Susquehanna Company were known, were the first pioneers who made any effort to develop a settlement.

We depict the arrival of the first party of settlers and the first religious service.

Epoch Six

THE GREAT MASSACRE OF 1778

The Connecticut Susquehanna Company, under the grant of King James of England, claimed all land north of the 38th parallel. The claim was confirmed by King Charles, who later gave the land to William Penn. Penn's grant was made nearly forty years after the grant made to Connecticut. These overlapping grants brought about the Yankee-Pennamite War, which has been divided into two parts, separated by the Revolutionary War, by historians.

The Yankee-Pennamite War was one of the greatest historical events of this section of Pennsylvania. Only the last battle, however, of the second part of the Yankee-Pennamite War was fought within the boundaries of the present Wyoming Borough.

On July 1, 1778, Tories and Indians numbering between 600 and 800 invaded the valley. Most of the

Indians were Senecas and were under the command of Old Smoke (Sayenqueraghta). They captured Fort Jenkins, a small post at West Pittston and Fort Wintermute, at Exeter (whose owner was a Tory) without trouble.

On July 3, a little band of old men and boys marched out of Kingston Fort, at what is now Forty Fort, to meet the enemy. A battle line was formed in Wyoming, and after marching up along the river bank for about a half mile, engaged the Tories and Indians at Exeter, the borough adjoining Wyoming on the northeast. The Americans were badly defeated and retreated back into the limits of Wyoming where more than half of the brave force was killed. The dead were gathered up several weeks after the massacre and were buried in a common grave at the lower end of the borough. The Wyoming Monument stands at that spot.

During the massacre several prisoners were taken by the Indians and were killed by Queen Esther, a Seneca Indian from Tioga Point, where Athens, Pa., now stands. Queen Esther, enraged by the death of her son who was killed by a scouting party searching for the bodies of Benjamin and Stukeley Harding, whose father was a brother of the Great Great Grandfather of the late President Warren G. Harding, meted out a horrible death to her captives in her fury.

We depict scenes concerning the massacre.

INTERLUDE

Narrator

"Grave is the master's look; his forehead wears
Deep rows of wrinkles, prints of worrying cares.
Heavy lies the head of him who rules,
His worst of all, whose kingdom is a school."

Epoch Seven

THE FIRST SCHOOL

The first mention of a public school in what is now Wyoming was in 1801 when Kingston Township was divided into four school districts and a nine months term provided. The school house, in 1801, stood at the corner of what is now Wyoming Avenue and Eighth

Street. Later it was moved up Wyoming Avenue about two hundred yards. It was abandoned when the Butler Street School was erected.

The first supervising principal of Wyoming Borough School was H. L. Morgan who today is a resident of Scranton. Other teachers at that time were Miss Nellie W. Osborn, Miss Barbara Hoffer, Miss Ida Turnbach and Miss Rose B. Lott. The first pupils to be graduated from a Wyoming school were Elizabeth A. Smallcomb (Mrs. John Closterman of Forty Fort) and Clara Robbins (Mrs. George Solomon, deceased). They were graduated in 1887, from the Butler Street School.

We depict an early school scene.

INTERLUDE

Narrator

"Our lips shall tell them to their sons
And they again to theirs
And generations yet unborn
Repeat them to their heirs."

Epoch Eight

FIRST POST OFFICE

The first post office in Wyoming was known as New Troy, the name by which the settlement was then known (1826). Where this name originated is not known and is found only in the first land grant made by Pennsylvania after the Pennamite War. In 1839, the name of the post office was changed to Wyoming because the town had generally become known by that name.

We depict an early scene at the town post office; the arrival of the mail by pony express and the distribution of the letters to the towns folk by the postmaster.

Epoch Nine

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE BATTLE AND MASSACRE OF WYOMING 1878

The most outstanding event in the history of Wyoming after the Civil War was the celebration commemorating the Centennial of the Battle and Massacre of

Wyoming. Among the dignitaries who attended the Centennial commemoration on July 3, 1878, were Rutherford B. Hayes, President of the United States; John Sherman, Secretary of the Treasury in President Hayes' cabinet; and the Hon. Governor Hartranft, of Pennsylvania.

We depict the arrival of President Hayes and his party to join in the Centennial celebration.

Epoch Ten

FIRST ELECTION OF BOROUGH OFFICES

Wyoming was incorporated in 1885, and the first election for borough offices was held on July 15 of that year in the Butler Street School. James B. Drake was judge of elections and Fisher Gay and John A. Hutchins were inspectors of elections. The following borough officers were elected at that meeting; Burgess, William Hancock; Councilmen, J. P. Smith, C. P. Knapp, J. A. Hutchins, John Sharps and J. I. Shoemaker.

We depict the meeting of these men whose dignity, assumed at first because of the importance of the occasion, is replaced by a somewhat gayer spirit as the evening wears on.

INTERLUDE

Narrator

"Fads and fancies of yesterdays,
With Time, have evolved in many ways,
Customs and styles have seen many a change
In courtship and in dancing,
But Youth still supremely reigns."

Epoch Eleven

AN EARLY WEDDING

The first wedding in Wyoming, after its incorporation in 1885, was that of Sarah Griffith and George Makenson, who today are still living in this vicinity. The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. Scott Stities, Presbyterian.

In the early days, as now, friends of a young couple who had decided to be married, were interested in the

affair. When, therefore, they were invited to the wedding, they went on foot, by horse, in wagons, and in stage coaches, dressed in their best clothes.

This scene will show the Griffith-Makeson nuptials and after the ceremony refreshments will be served with many toasts to the bride and groom. Dancing will be enjoyed by the guests.

Epoch Twelve

THE HALL OF FAME

James Bird of Battle of Niagara Fame
John Franklin, leader of Yankees in Pennamite War
General Pickering, sent by George Washington to stop war.
Lieutenant John Jenkins,
Benjamin and Stukey Harding, etc., etc.

INTERLUDE

Narrator

"Now that the Book of Records is closed,
And in it the deeds of old repose,
Let us then turn to our enlightened age,
And see the wonders of Today's beauties displayed;
I've seen the Birth of Man,
Seen how through strife and strain and struggle,
Man hath doffed the Brute and donned the Human.
How with trial and tears Man rises still
And learns that he has soul,
I—for I am Time."

THE MASQUE

A mammoth spectacle symbolizing the spirit and growth of America, the Melting Pot, where people from all parts of the earth are united in a Union, one and inseparable. Characteristic dances and drills of many nations will be given, with correct costumes for each, from the smallest to the mightiest—America.

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